

Killings-1937

## Dallas Negro Dies In Gun Ambush

SELMA, ALA., Aug. 10.—(Special)—Jim Hines, negro of the Ackerville community, was the third victim of an ambush slaying on South Side since May when he was shot to death last night with a charge of buckshot through a window in the home of Charlie Smith on the Harper place, shortly before 9 p.m. Sheriff Sam Reynolds's deputies, impressed with the similarity of the slaying with that of Henry Tarver, aged negro, who was shot by George Lang on May 30, said that the capture of Lang probably would solve the case. Lang has been sought since the slaying of Tarver and discovery late of the decapitated body of Lang's young son.

Hines, traveling toward Selma, yesterday morning about 10 o'clock, went to house of Charlie Smith last night, where he ate supper and asked permission to rest. Lying on a bed, as Smith, only other occupant of the house, was preparing to retire, Hines was struck by a load of buckshot, which entered his right chest, causing instant death.

## Butler Negro, 70, Killed Body Found On Highway

GREENVILLE, ALA., Aug. 13.—(Special)—Officers tonight were searching for a suspect in the roadside shooting of Tom Pryor, 70-year-old negro, whose body was discovered this afternoon on the Buverne-Greenville highway by a passing motorist.

Officers at first advanced the theory the aged negro was a victim of a hit-run driver, but an autopsy performed late this afternoon revealed the negro had been shot at close range with a shotgun. Deputy Sheriff Brooks Barganier said a quantity of bird shot and shell wadding was found in the negro's head.

Two young white boys, ages 13 and 16, were questioned by authorities but have been released. The gray-haired negro, Deputy Barganier stated, had a good reputation and was well liked in Greenville and the county.

## Larger Reward Sought For Dallas County Negro

SELMA, ALA., Aug. 11.—(Special)—In an effort to capture George Lang, negro, sought in this county since May 30, following the ambush slaying of Henry Tarver, aged negro, and the finding of the decapitated body of Lang's 8-year-old son, Sheriff Sam Reynolds today set in motion plans to seek \$50 from the State to add to a \$25 reward he posted some time ago, making a total of \$75 which he hopes to offer for the capture of Lang.

It is the belief of authorities here that Jim Hines, negro of the Ackerville community, who was shot to death Monday night in the area where Tarver and the Lang boy both met death, was also killed by Lang. Sheriff Reynolds said today that Lang's arrest is eagerly desired and it is his belief that the negro will be apprehended at an early date.

## TWO HELD IN BRUTAL SLAYING OF NEGROES

### Man, Wife And Niece Are Killed At Rockytown

Two Negro youths were held in County Jail today pending a coroner's investigation of the brutal hammer slaying of their father, stepmother and niece at Rockytown near Oxmoor Lake.

Those held are Frank Lampkin, 33, and Joe Lampkin, 27. Five other negroes arrested for questioning in the case were released.

The bodies of Shep Lampkin, 30-year-old farmer, his 30-year-old wife and his eight-year-old granddaughter were found sprawled on the floor around the dinner table yesterday, their heads bashed in.

Frank and Joe Lampkin told officers they found the bodies when they went there to borrow some blankets. Coroner Gip M. Evans said he had been informed that the elderly farmer had refused to permit the two youths to stay on his place and that there had been "bad feeling" between them for some time.

A blood-stained hammer and a wet soil clothes button found near the bodies were the only concrete clues. The triple murder is believed to have occurred Friday night while the family was eating supper.

## Brutal Murder Solved After 27 Years

By GENEVIEVE B. AIREY

THE brutal murder of Jesse Baldwin, 72, Confederate veteran which was perpetrated almost 30 years ago in Conecuh County has remained an unsolved mystery baffling officials until Sept. 1, 1937, when following a tip from a woman in Louisiana, Sheriff W. A. Moore at Evergreen, seat of Conecuh County, arrested four of the alleged suspects, all negroes, who are awaiting indictment by the Grand Jury preceding the Fall term of Circuit Court.

On a hot, sultry day, July 2, 1910, Capt. Jesse Baldwin, Confederate veteran, beloved and esteemed by all who knew him, sat quietly on the veranda of his ante-bellum home in a remote section of Conecuh County, some nine miles from Owassa, viewing his growing crops and ripening fruit. Benign and peaceful, he had none and liked it! He had a neighborhood of negroes, mostly approaching, just within the yard they played for a brief parley, then came on toward the steps. He recognized Ashley and Remus White, Litt and Charlie Manuel, Enoch B. Wood, and Albert Johnson, who frequently came to his home. When they asked for fruit he was unperturbed. Suddenly ascending the steps two of the negroes rushed toward this defenseless ex-soldier, one of the negroes striking him with a club, and the other with a hoe seized from under Capt. Baldwin's porch.

Pleading for mercy, the Confederate veteran ran through his large living room, jumped from a side entrance, and slipped prostrate on a wet soil.

Leaving him stricken and cruelly battered beneath a sheltering peach tree where he had fallen, the negroes took his keys, ransacked the place and fled.

### Four Days' Agony

Four days, with a merciless sun beating down upon him, he lay suffering untold agonies! On July 6, he was discovered by a neighboring negro who quickly reported the find—the victim faintly breathing but the body in a ghastly state of decomposition.

High excitement prevailed! Officers were summoned, searching parties formed, and the man hunt was on! For days and weeks the search was fruitless, until Albert Johnson, an 18-year-old negro, appeared in the town of Garland, some 10 or more miles above Evergreen, and sold the shotgun of the dead man.

This act led to his arrest. When brought into court Johnson told many

conflicting stories, but was finally sentenced to serve life in the State Penitentiary.

Thus the curtain fell on the Baldwin tragedy! An unsolved murder mystery—one of the most foul in the history of Conecuh County.

Johnson entered the State Penitentiary and came to be simply No. 3867. A dull, illiterate, youthful negro "lifer."

In April, 1929, Johnson escaped and was not recaptured until October, 1933, when he was discovered in Buffalo, N. Y., apprehended and returned to Kilby Prison, where he is serving his sentence.

Through the years, the family and neighbors of the slain veteran watched and waited for the case to break—at times, losing all hope.

Came July, 1937! With it came a direct clue from a citizen of Louisiana in the form of a letter to Sheriff W. A. Moore, of Evergreen, from a woman residing near New Orleans. Quickly he followed this lead but to gather up the scattered threads of evidence was a difficult, tedious task. The former Circuit Judge in 1910, J. C. Richardson, had died many years before as had the former sheriff, J. F. Irwin. The former solicitor was Judge Charles Bricken, now a judge of the Appellate Court of Alabama. Determination combined with keen, intelligent effort has so characterized Sheriff Moore and his brother that for almost 16 years the voters of the county have continued them in office. The sheriff quietly followed all leads; then came the "break" when Johnson in Kilby Prison, made a detailed confession, naming all of the party. Sheriff Moore captured one of the alleged criminals in Louisiana as directed by a woman, he remaining three in Conecuh County. One, only is dead: slain by an officer when resisting arrest a few days after the crime was discovered.

The case will be presented to the Grand Jury when it convenes in October. Time has wrought many changes since the tense, exciting days following the discovery of Capt. Baldwin's body in his yard. The century-old home in which he lived, and where he had reared a family of substantial citizens, has been destroyed by fire. The courthouse in which Albert Johnson was tried, and sentenced to serve life has been replaced by a more modern, imposing structure. Most of the officials have died. The automobile, not the horse and buggy conveys the sheriff and investigators from the scene of the crime to all points of evidence. Few of the comrades of the Veteran in Grey are left to follow the case with avid interest.

But today, a grandson of Capt. Baldwin, Willis Jesse Darby, a substantial

citizen, recalls the discovery of his grandfather's body, as vividly as though it happened yesterday. In the jail at Evergreen Sunday, the old negro caught in Louisiana late last week, rehearsed the scene dramatically as prisoners above chanted with pathos and exaltation, "Hear my cry, O Lord, hear my cry!"

The author of this graphic report of the solution of a 27-year-old murder is the wife of Bruce Airey, associate member of the State Parole Board. With her husband, she was privy to the investigation after it had reached Kilby Prison. Afterwards she went to considerable lengths to dig up the background of the murder which stirred Conecuh County in 1910.

## TRIPLE MURDER LAID TO NEGRO

### Brother Blames Brother As Coroner Probes Hammer

9 - Slaying 37

A 23-year-old Negro today accused his older brother of a triple murder in which their father, stepmother and young niece met their death in their home at Rockytown near Oxmoor Lake Sunday night.

The youth, Frank Lampkin, officers said, declared that he accompanied his brother, Joe Lampkin, to the home of their father, Shep Lampkin, and that he remained in the yard while his older brother went into the house.

Frank told officers he heard screams and that Joe came out of the house and said he had "knocked 'em in the head."

This development came as Coroner Gip M. Evans and Sheriff's Deputies C. B. Jones and Sam Arnett continued their investigation of the case. The three bodies were found slumped around a dining table, their heads bashed in.

Officers said Frank told them that his brother asked him to go with him to his father's house to "get some quilts." He said he told Joe that his father had already refused to give him the quilts and there was no need to go.

Both of the young Negroes are held in County Jail pending completion of the investigation.

Deputy Jones said the death

been recovered. Joe Lampkin, Deputy Jones said, stoutly maintained his innocence and said he had nothing to say now. Officers said the younger Negro made his statement in the presence of his brother.



# Merchant Slain By 2 Negroes, One Confesses

## Ax That Dealt Death To Fred Heins Found

In Ditch

Sheriff Haygood Paterson said yesterday his department was holding two negroes who, according to the confession of one, murdered Fred Heins as he read his paper in front of his store on the Carter Hill Road just after dawn Friday, by robbing him of about \$3.50 and shooting him.

Sheriff Paterson quoted Bo Whitfield, a 16-year-old golf caddy with a variety of robberies to his credit, as confessing soon after his arrest Friday afternoon on another charge that he dragged Heins's body into the merchant's store after his accomplice, James Hardeman, 30, had slugged him twice with the broad side of an ax.

Whitfield was quoted as saying that he and Hardeman stole the ax the night before and passed most of the night in a nearby box car waiting for the 59-year-old merchant to emerge from the store to pursue his habit of reading the paper in a chair under a pecan tree. Hardeman, who was lured into voluntarily appearing at the county jail, steadfastly denied any knowledge of the crime.

Whitfield, the sheriff related, had been sought since July 24 for the armed robbery of the Bermuda Knolls club house. At the time of his arrest—about 4 p.m. Friday—nothing had been learned which linked him with the crime.

Deputies, Ray Guice and Hayden Sellers accosted him on Poplar Street not far from the crime's scene. It was said that the deputies acted on a hunch and asked him what he had done with the single barrel shot gun which had been stolen from Heins after his murder.

Sheriff Paterson said that Whitfield admitted participation in the crime within a half hour. He told the officers that when he had been stopped by them he was on his way to recover the stolen shot gun which he had concealed about a fourth of a mile from Heins' Place. Whereupon, he was said to have taken the deputies to the gun.

Returning to Heins' Place, the sheriff averred, the negro reenacted the slaying, plans for which were made in accordance with the knowledge Shepherd had of Heins' habits. Sheriff Paterson represented Whitfield's version thus:

Several hours before dawn Shepherd and Hardeman, armed with the ax,

concealed themselves in a box car on a railroad track very near the store. Through cracks in its side they saw Heins when he sat down to read in a chair under a tree, which is in plain view of the occupants of the Masonic Home.

They walked up to the reader and Hardeman said:

"How 'bout giving me a cigaret?"

"I'll give you one for a penny," Heins replied. "What are you doing here this time of day with that ax?"

"We're going to chop some wood."

The pair then sat down on the bench which is attached to the tree on which Heins's chair leaned.

When Heins resumed perusal of the paper, Hardeman brought the ax down on his head twice. Whitfield pulled him by the legs into the front of the store while Hardeman searched for the money.

They walked out of the store with the ax and shot gun and started along the Carter Hill Road in the direction of Cloverdale, stopping to cast the ax into a ditch.

After the shot gun was hidden, they parted on a street in the east side residential district. Each used a portion of the stolen money to buy new shirts after they separated.

For an undisclosed reason Whitfield was not placed in jail until about 6 p.m. Deputies Guice and Sellers then set out to find Hardeman, whom they had been fruitlessly seeking for some time on a warrant charging assault to murder, Sheriff Paterson said.

Failing to find any trace of him they got word that the assault to murder charge would be dismissed if he would visit the county jail and talk it over with the sheriff, it was said.

About 2 a.m. he walked into the trap. Both were transferred to Kilby Prison where attempts will be made to gain an admission from Hardeman.

Meanwhile, the sheriff said, Lamar Payne, chief of the fingerprint department, would attempt to find fingerprints about the store which are the same as those of the prisoners.

The ax was identified yesterday, Sheriff Paterson said, as one stolen from the premises of William Davis, who resides a few miles from the murder spot.

Hardeman was said to have acknowledged that he knew Shepherd having worked as a caddy with him.

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of five negroes arrested following the finding of the farmer's unconscious body, confessed at Kilby Prison to a group of officers he struck the blows that later proved fatal, claiming he did so in self-defense.

The planter was discovered by his son, Howard Guy Gunter, lying beside a tractor in a field on his farm and was rushed to a hospital at Enterprise where he succumbed to his injuries a week later without regaining consciousness. It was thought at first Mr. Gunter's injuries might have resulted from an accident, but investigation indicated an assault.

Sheriff W. B. Paul later arrested five negroes, Son Pugh, tenant on the Gunter place, Son Clark, Berry Simmons, Charlie Moore and Bud Phelps Herron. Two of the men taken into custody were placed in the Pike County jail at Troy, Pugh was brought to Kilby, and the remaining two were sent to other county jails for safe-keeping.

According to announcement at State highway patrol headquarters here, Pugh confessed to striking the ax blows that caused the farmer's death, yesterday afternoon, the confession being made in his cell at Kilby to John Lynch, special investigator for the highway patrol, who assisted local authorities in conducting investigations that culminated in the five arrests. State Patrolman J. M. Gauntt and Deputy Sheriff Reeves, of Pike County, also were present.

Pugh was quoted as stating in his confession that he and Mr. Gunter had an argument about a sum of money Pugh claimed the farmer owed him in connection with a crop settlement, and Mr. Gunter becoming incensed, seized a monkey-wrench and swung it at him, striking him on the shoulder. He ran, he said, and the planter pursued him with the wrench still in his hand.

The negro claimed, it was said, that in the chase, they circled the tractor three or four times, and that he then saw and ax leaning against the tractor and seizing it turned and struck the farmer with the weapon, inflicting the wounds in his head from which he died. Pugh, it was stated, entirely exonerated the other negroes from any part in the tragedy. Both an ax and a wrench were found near where Mr. Gunter was discovered.

**Negro's Story  
Tenant Admits  
He Slew Coffee  
County Farmer  
In Heins Death**

**Whitfield's Confession  
Absolves Hardeman  
In Axe Slaying**

The dawn slaying of Fred Heins, at his store on the Carter Hill Road, was believed by the sheriff's department yesterday to have been satisfactorily cleared through the alleged confession of Bo Whitfield, 16-year-old negro golf caddy, that he

alone committed the crime and that James Hardeman, 30, also a negro whom he previously had implicated was innocent.

The reported confession was made yesterday at Kilby Prison in the presence of Sheriff Haygood Paterson and Deputies Ed Wampold and Hayden Sellers.

**Gives Details To Sheriff**

Among the remarks attributed to Whitfield were:

"I haven't seen James (Hardeman) in a month," and "If you'll look it up the house at — Burkhardt's Alley you'll find the shirt I was wearing."

The officers said they went to the address given and found Whitfield's shirt, which was blood-stained.

Although apparently cleared of the ax-slaying of Mr. Heins, Hardeman was retained in custody, he having been wanted on an old charge of assault to murder in connection with an alleged attack upon a negro woman.

In admitting that he, alone, was responsible for the merchant's death, deputies quoted Whitfield as saying:

That he had been told by an unnamed negro that Heins had "a heap of money" at his store.

That he had slept in a railroad box car, in sight of the store, the night before the crime and that he had consumed all, or most, of the contents of a wine bottle.

That he saw a newsboy deliver a paper to Mr. Heins, and watched the latter sit in his chair to read it—custom of the storeman known to residents of that area who arose early.

**Heins Asked About Ax**

That he approached Heins, carrying an ax stolen from Davis's Garage, located nearby, and opened a conversation, in which Heins asked him "What are you doing here so early?" and "What are you carrying that ax for?"

That he replied he was going to chop some wood for a gentleman "who ain't got here yet."

That, as Heins resumed reading, he knocked the merchant in the head with the ax—then a second time as the wounded man slumped forward.

That after committing the murder, he dragged Heins into the front of the store from the yard, where he had been sitting, and climbed upon a counted to get the "money box" (a cigar box) from a shelf.

**Loot Totaled \$3.50**

The deputies said that Whitfield then related how he obtained a shot-gun from inside the store, how he hid it, and then went to the house in Burkhardt's Alley to conceal the blood-stained shirt. The shirt he was wearing, when arrested on Poplar Street by Deputies Ray Guice and Hayden Sellers, was said to have been purchased with part of the \$3.50 obtained from the cigar box.

Hardeman, said to have heard that the assault to murder charge against him would be dropped if he would visit the county jail, appeared there on his own accord.

# Four Negroes Get Life For 1910 Killing

EVERGREEN, ALA., Nov. 10.—

(Special)—Four aged negroes drew life imprisonment sentences in Conecuh County Circuit Court today for the 27-year-old slaying of a Confederate veteran.

They were sentenced by Judge Francis W. Hare immediately following a verdict of guilty a few hours after the case went to the jury late today.

Charged with the slaying of Jesse Baldwin, 72-year-old Confederate veteran in a field near here July 2, 1910, the negroes were arrested in Louisiana recently and brought here for trial.

Those given sentences in the case were Litt Manuel, 50; Charley Manuel, 60; Ashley White, 69, and Enoch Woods.

Woods, who turned State's evidence, was sentenced on a plea of guilty. No notice of appeal was filed.

## 'Life' Is Son Pugh Verdict In Coffee

## Negro Found Guilty In Death Of Ralph Gunter

ENTERPRISE, ALA., Nov. 20.—

(Special)—Son Pugh, negro, charged with the slaying of Ralph Gunter, prominent Coffee County planter, tonight was found guilty by a circuit jury and his punishment fixed at life.

The jury was out two hours.

Gunter, employer of Pugh, was found fatally injured on his farm near New Brockton on the afternoon of Sept. 6. He died a week later. Pugh was charged with striking him with an axe and was carried to Kilby Prison. The trial was begun yesterday and continued through this morning.

Only witness heard this morning was Solicitor E. C. Orme, who reviewed a confession said to have been made by Pugh at Kilby.

The slight, crippled prisoner turned ashen when he stood before Judge W. L. Parks to receive sentence. He was whisked promptly back to Kilby by a detail of State police.

Although throngs crowded the courthouse to hear the case, at no time was there evidence of disorder.



Killings-1937

Alabama

Tuscaloosa, Ala., News  
November 22, 1937

## Negroes And Homicides

WITH an appeal to the personal side of murder, the State Health Department, in a recent news release, declared that "the average negro was more than four times as likely to become the victim of homicide in Alabama last year as the average white person in this state."

In 1936, the homicide rate for colored people was 46.4 per 100,000 but only 10.1 per 100,000 for white people. The rate of the two races as a whole was 23 per 100,000.

In all, 654 homicides occurred in Alabama during the year, of which number 185 were white people and 469 were negroes. Only two years, 1933 and 1934, are listed on the records of the Bureau of Vital Statistics as having had higher rates than 1936. The lowest rate thus far recorded was in 1918 when it was only 11.4 per 100,000—and, with an interpretative remark, might we not attribute this to the fact that so many of our men were away in the army, engaging in homicide elsewhere? The highest rate was 26 per 100,000, reached in 1934.

These figures, for white and black alike, compare poorly with such cities—cities with a bloody reputation—as New York and Chicago, but the negro statistics are what interests us at the moment. There can be no doubt but that the negro, by nature or by the lack of civilizing influences, cares less for human life than the white—but we cannot blame it all on that. We must blame a good part of it on what we have taught, or have failed to teach the negro right here in Alabama, and not on what he brought out of Africa with him.

We speak specifically of law enforcement. We are prone to bring the negro into court on all sort of minor infringements, and to fine him heavily. We treat a crap game, and other such little illegal diversions, harshly. But the courts are entirely too lenient with the negro in crimes of a major nature, as long as these crimes involve members of his own race alone and do not lap over into the white domain.

For instance, how many times can you recall negroes having died in the electric chair at Kilby Prison for having killed negroes? How many of them have been given life sentences? We can answer the questions. Few, precious few. Yet the homicide rate among negroes is four times as great as it is among whites, and the overwhelming majority of these negroes die at the hands of negroes.

Until our courts and juries begin to handle these negro cases with the same severity which marks those of the whites, we cannot hope to curb these excessive homicides.

Mobile, Ala., Register  
November 21, 1937

## Alabama Negro Most Likely Homicide Victim

MONTGOMERY, Nov. 20.—The average negro was more than four times as likely to become the victim of homicide in Alabama last year as the average white person in this state, according to figures on the 1936 homicides rates which have just been prepared by the bureau of vital statistics of the state department of health. The 1936 rate was 46.4 per 100,000 population for colored people and only 10.1 per 100,000 for white people. The rate for the two races as a whole was 23 per 100,000 population.

A total of 654 homicides occurred in Alabama during the year, of which number 185 were of white people and 469 colored. Only two years are listed on the records of the bureau of vital statistics as having had higher homicide death rates than the 1936 rate, these being 1933 and 1934. The lowest rate shown on these records was reached in 1918, when it was only 11.4 per 100,000 population. The highest rate was 26 per 100,000 population, reached in 1934.

## Negro Killed By Officers In Wetumpka Stabs, Hits Policeman; Dies Instantly In Hail Of Bullets

WETUMPKA, ALA., Nov. 27—(Special)—Panicky pedestrians scurried for cover in downtown Wetumpka this afternoon when Jesse Howe, negro, about 26, was killed by a fusillade of pistol shots fired by city policemen when Howe allegedly resisted arrest.

The shooting occurred at 4:30, in front of Forrest Little's Drug Store, and was witnessed by a large crowd of late Saturday afternoon shoppers. Rowe was killed when Marshall Peoples attempted to arrest the negro on a charge of drunk and disorderly conduct. The negro is said to have drawn a knife, slashing Mr. Peoples on the hand, inflicting a deep and painful cut, then to have knocked the officer to the ground where he is said to have advanced on him with his drawn knife.

Deputy Marshall Pete Wall, coming to the assistance of his fellow officer, drew his gun. Peoples also drew his gun and both opened fire on the

negro, killing him instantly. He fell with several bullets in him.

In the melee, Officer Peoples is alleged to have shot himself in the foot, a bullet grazing it while he was lying on the ground.

The Sheriff Will Austin, investigating the affair, is said to have called it "self-defense" and that he wouldn't prefer charges against the officers.

Ozark, Ala., Star  
November 25, 1937

## Homicides More Likely With Negroes

MONTGOMERY, Ala., Nov. 20.—The average negro was more than four times as likely to become the victim of homicide in Alabama last year as the average white person in this State, according to figures on the 1936 homicide rates which have just been prepared by the Bureau of State Department of Health. The 1936 rate was 46.4 per 100,000 population for colored people and only 10.1 per 100,000 for white people. The rate for the two races as a whole was 23.0 per 100,000 population.

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Evergreen, Ala., Courant  
November 25, 1937

## Homicide Rate Higher Among Negro Race

Montgomery, Nov. 22.—The average Negro was more than four times as likely to become the victim of homicide in Alabama last year as the average white person in this State, according to figures on the 1936 homicides rates which have just been prepared by the Bureau of Vital Statistics of the State Department of Health. The 1936 rate was 46.4 per 100,000 population for colored people and only 10.1 per 100,000 for white people. The rate for the two races as a whole was 23.0

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Killings-1937

## NEGRO SHOT DOWN FOLLOWING THEFT

He Is Slain In Dolomite By  
Filling Station Keeper

Robert Daniels, 24-year-old Negro, was shot and instantly killed late yesterday when, according to Chief of Police J. D. Bailey, of Fairfield, he threatened Raymond Vowell, Dolomite filling station operator, with a knife.

Chief Bailey said officers were pursuing the Negro after he had stolen two overcoats from the Dolomite Commissary of T. C. I. Vowell, Chief Bailey said, attempted to stop the Negro. Daniels drew a knife and Vowell shot him. He was still carrying the coats when shot, officers said.

Chief Bailey said approximately \$300 worth of stolen clothing was found in the Negro's house. He had been bound to the grand jury on another grand larceny charge.

## ENSLLEY NEGRO KILLED WHILE LOOTING STORE

Paul Edward Miller, Negro, of 32 Burrell-st, Ensley, was shot and killed early today while looting the C. C. Wade grocery store at 34 Martin Quarters, Ensley.

Mr. Wade, who lives in the rear of the store, told Coroner Gip Evans that he heard Miller tear the screen from the window, and saw him reach through and take out several packages of cigarets. He shot Miller with a double-barreled shotgun.

According to Coroner Evans, who returned a verdict of justifiable homicide, the store had been looted several times in the past few weeks.

Lee Stubbles, 35-year-old Negro employe of Harbison-Walker Refractories Co., was in a critical condition today at Hillman Hospital from a gunshot wound in the head. Fairfield police were looking for another Negro for questioning. The shooting occurred at 38th-st and Palmer-av, Fairfield, this morning.

## Two Negroes Die In Weekend Frays

Police said yesterday that negro affrays of the weekend had resulted in two deaths the serious injury of one man, and in minor injuries to several others.

Carrie Darby, 1011 Columbia Avenue, and her husband, Eugene,

surrendered themselves in connection with the fatal cutting of Ozella Salt-Reese, 20 Murray Street, last Saturday. The former was charged with murder. The body, State Highway Patrolman C. T. Donaldson, Deputy Al-

Creola Harris, 15, was arrested and charged with the slaying of three negroes, Milton James Pyron, 17 Hudson's Alley about 1:15 a.m. yesterday and Boots Chamlett, and the dead planter's two brothers, W. M. Vaughan, probate with stabbing Henry Hartis, of Van-diver Alley.

Harris was taken to a hospital and last night was reported to be "doing as well as could be expected."

## NEGRO FOUND SLAIN NEAR T. C. I. PLANT

No Labor Trouble, Assert  
Company Officials

Fairfield police today sought a motive for the slaying of James Cunningham, 26, Negro sheet mill worker for the Tennessee Coal,

Iron & Railroad Co., whose bullet-pierced body was found about half a mile from the sheet mill early this morning.

The Negro's body was found by a white steel worker named Skelton. Investigating the homicide, are Fairfield Detectives Y. L. Anthony and G. L. Alexander. T. C. I. of-

Mr. Wade, who lives in the rear of the store, told Coroner Gip Evans that he heard Miller tear the death.

## Dallas Negro Is Held In Slaying

Fikes Bound Over For  
Death Of Planter  
On Dec.

SELMA, ALA., Jan. 21.—(Special) —Frank Fikes, negro, was bound over to the Dallas County grand jury with true bills charging Charlie Dixon, de-

Pleas Thursday on a charge of murder in connection with the slaying of Grey G. Vaughan, Dal-las County planter, at his country-lodge on the Summerfield Road. Mr. Vaughan's body was found two days after his death when two Selma sportsmen went to Mr. Vaughan's place seeking permission to hunt his property. T. G. Gays defended Fikes.

Called as witnesses at the hearing over which Judge W. R. Rountree sided and for which the State represented by Circuit Solicitor

Henry tence was interpreted as reluctance to admit that the case against the prisoner had collapsed.

He said he preferred not to comment on Parker's case prior to the hearing at 10 a.m., today on the prisoner's proceedings for habeas corpus. The hearing will be before Judge Eugene W. Carter of the Circuit Court. It was pointed out in legal circles that it would be useless to conduct a habeas corpus suit in such a capital case if the grand jury had returned a true bill for the slaying of the couple.

A sketch of the room as it appeared at the time the body was found was used on the stand by Judge Vaughan to identify the physical setting and was presented in evidence by Solicitor James. Judge Vaughan stated that a pot of peas, which witnesses had said Fikes had sought from Mr. Vaughan, still was on the table when the body was found. Fikes lived on the Vaughan place. The pistol found near Mr. Vaughan's body, was identified by the dead man's brothers as the property of the late Mr. Vaughan.

Eddie Davis was bound over under a \$500 bond for assault with intent to murder.

## Grand Jury Holds Negro For Murders

Seibels Refuses To Say  
What If Anything Was  
Done In Parker Case

Both Behind Bars  
White Suspect To Fight For  
His Freedom Today In  
Habeas Corpus Action

The Montgomery County Grand Jury, in session since Monday, made its report last night, returning two true bills charging Charlie Dixon, de-

ranged negro, with the murder of Do-ra Bullard and Leon K. Nichols, but apparently it failed to indict James Parker, white textile worker, who for weeks was the No. 1 suspect of Police Commissioner William P. Screws. Sheriff Haygood Paterson, and Solicitor Temple Seibels, who announced the double indictment of the negro who confessed the killings, declined to say what the grand jury did in Parker's case. As Parker was safely in custody there could be no point in concealing an indictment had one been returned and the Solicitor's re-

women had gone on a rampage, destroying bedding, mattresses and everything in their reach.

The grand jury included in its report a dissertation on observance of traffic laws.

"As to traffic on the streets and highways, we feel that the greatest thing that can be accomplished is for the best of our citizenship to take the matter seriously to heart, and make it an individual matter to set a good example in their driving habits," the report read.

"This grand jury was greatly impressed with Your Honor's remarks on this subject in your able charge to us on Monday. We believe that Your Honor said in effect that the average person, when he gets behind the wheel of an automobile, seems to lose all sense of good citizenship, good manners, courtesy, and proper consideration of the rights of the other fellow, which, under other circumstances in life would be observed by such citizen; that are nice and polite in their own homes and on the streets, he later abandons every walk and situation in life, they take the time and trouble to observe the niceties of good social usage, and really pride themselves upon their culture and affability. And if they would extend all these good manners to their driving, it would be the greatest assistance the authorities could get in enforcing better traffic conditions. We hope we have not misquoted Your Honor's remarks. We earnestly urge upon our better citizens the putting into practice these suggestions.

The hacked and slashed bodies of all the victims of good social usage, Miss Bullard, former common-law wife of Parker, and Nichols were found the day following the murder on Jan. 17.

Dixon's trial is scheduled for the closing week of the criminal term which opens Monday. The first two weeks will be taken up with regular State cases, with capital offenses coming up late in the month or early March.

In its report to Judge Carter, the grand jury announced that 16 murders and 10 robbery cases had been placed on the capital docket during the week. In all, 124 cases were docketed and 113 true bills found.

Complaints were made to the grand jury during the week of children and minors squandering their change by playing pin ball machines and similar devices in many of the soda fountains, cafes, fruit stores and other establishments.

"We call this matter to the attention of the sheriff's and police departments, so that they may remedy this situation, which we urge them to do," the report stated. The report revealed that no cases of gambling had been reported to the grand jury at this session. Several weeks ago Solicitor Seibels invited persons who claimed to have been robbed at gambling halls to go before the grand jury with the facts.

Called At Wrong Time  
The committee from the grand jury that visited and inspected the county jail recommended to the Board of Revenue the purchase of 25 additional mattresses. It was learned at the jail that 48 new mattresses were bought recently. It seems that the committee inspecting the jail happened to drop in just after two crazed

## 30th Dice Game Killing Reported In Marengo

LINDEN, ALA., Feb. 11.—(Special) —John Kelly, 35, negro, in the Marengo County jail charged with the fatal shooting of J. W. Berry, 23, negro, at Gaston Garris mill Saturday afternoon. Both negroes, employes of the mill, were said to have been quarreling over the outcome of a dice game. Kelly was shot with small shot at a distance of 21 steps. Kelly's death brings Marengo's dice game murder toll to 30 in a period of about 18 months.



# Negro Tells Advertiser White Man Drove Him To Cemetery

Charley Dixon, 28-year-old negro and native of Lowndes County, confessed to an Advertiser reporter at Kilby Prison last night that he killed Dora Bullard and Leon K. Nichols in Oakwood Cemetery on the night of Jan. 17, and that he was carried to the vicinity of the killing in a white man's automobile, driven by the white man and that after the killing the white man carried him back to town and that he went to his home and buried his bloody shirt under the house and hid his blood-stained knife, also.

"How old are you, Charley?" asked the reporter, after Charley had been brought down for questioning through the courtesy of Solicitor Temple Seibels, Sheriff Haygood Paterson and Hamp Draper. Sheriff Paterson accompanied the reporter to the prison and heard the interview and took part in the questioning after the reporter had finished.

"I'm 28 years old," answered Charley after some stammering and apparent, or real, difficulty.

"How many times have you been in the pen?" was the next question and Charley enumerated Kilby a couple of times and one or two other prisons.

"Did you kill that white man and woman in Oakwood Cemetery?" was the next question.

"Yassir," answered Charley after some stammering but not through hesitation in admitting the guilt.

From that point on the reporter propounded a number of questions to Charley without attempting to bluster or intimidate him. Charley began to leave off his play acting part after a while.

"Charley, didn't a white man go with you to the cemetery and wasn't he near you when you killed the couple?" was another question.

"Yassir," answered Charley, and after further questioning, Charley admitted the white man picked him up in his automobile near the cemetery gate after the killing and deposited him "somewhere" near town.

The prisoner rambled a good deal during his questioning but after he admitted there was a white man who drove him near the cemetery on the night of the murder, he did not waver on the point and Sheriff Paterson questioned him minutely on that point.

"What did the white man say when you started to cut him?" the questioner asked.

"He didn't say nuthing," said the prisoner.

"What did the woman say when you drew your knife on her?" was the next question.

"She said, 'my God,'" answered Charley.

The prisoner denied a criminal assault on the woman after killing the man. He said after the killing he

walked back towards the cemetery gate. It was from there that the white man he claimed was with him carried him back "somewhere near town."

## Killer Fails To Recognize Jim Parker

### Cemetery Victim's Mate Paraded Unnoticed By Negro Who Confessed

Charley Dixon, negro, the confessed slayer of Miss Dora Bullard and Leon Nichols, said yesterday that James Parker, her common-law husband, was not the white man he had accused of paying him \$25 to stab the couple to death.

Dixon yesterday afternoon, in the presence of Frank S. Boswell, Kilby Prison warden, and city and county authorities, was confronted by a line of white men, including Parker, and asked to pick out the guilty person.

The negro looked from face to face, then replied that "he ain't here."

Afterwards his attention was directed to Parker, and he again shook his head.

"Is this the man?" Dixon was asked.

He answered promptly: "No, suh."

Sunday night the negro admitted stabbing both Nichols and Miss Bullard, but maintained that the crime was engineered by a white man who had paid him \$25 to commit the deed.

"Grasping At Straw" This assertion, in the opinion of several investigation officers, was a "grasping at a straw," and they expressed the belief that no white man was involved.

Late Sunday night, Dixon told an Advertiser reporter that he had stabbed both Miss Bullard and Mr. Nichols to death; that he came upon them in the thicket near Oakwood Cemetery, where their bodies were found the next morning; that they were standing together in an embrace at the time; that he was driven to and from the scene by a white man who had paid him \$25 to slay the couple, and that he had met the "white man" at a penitentiary where he had served time.

Dixon, who has served sentences at several penitentiaries, was asked at

which one he had met the white man. He replied that he could not remember.

"Met In Chisholm" "Where did you meet the white man the night of the slayings?" he was queried.

"In Chisholm," he replied. Since his confession Sunday morning, officers said the negro had made several conflicting statements.

One official quoted Dixon as saying that he had been hired by a white man to commit the crime. Another quoted him as saying, earlier, that no white man had been involved. Conflicting statements as to whether he had attacked Miss Bullard also were credited to Dixon.

Meantime, Parker, brought here from Union, S. C., for questioning in the case, was held at the county jail for investigation by a Montgomery Grand Jury, now in regular session. Chief of Detectives Paul Rapport said that Parker had denied any connection with the crime, but that he had admitted being in Montgomery the week before it occurred.

In their early investigation, police said they had been informed that Miss Bullard had received threats, made, presumably, by Parker.

#### Knife, Shirt Found

Officers obtained the confession from Dixon, already held on a burglary charge, after Detective Clark Frizzle and Officer W. A. Stanton found a blood-stained knife and shirt under the home of Louise Butler, Dixon's mother. The latter was said to have identified the knife as being "Charlie's."

## Dual Killing Is Confessed By A Negro

### Bloodstained Knife And Shirt Are Discovered Hidden Under House

#### No Motive Given

Charles Dixon Jailed For Robbing Shirt Factory; Parker Still In Custody

A midnight investigation by City Detective Clark Frizzle and Officer W. A. Stanton, prompted by a "tip," yesterday had brought startling developments in the murder, Jan. 17, of Miss Dora Bullard, 22, and Leon K. Nichols, 36-year-old cotton mill

worker, in an undergrowth near Oakwood Cemetery.

Developments included an alleged confession by Charley Dixon, 24-year-old negro, one-time inmate of an asylum for the insane and ex-convict, that he had wielded the knife that snuffed out the lives of both, and virtual admission by officers that James Parker, former common-law husband of Miss Bullard, likely would be exonerated of blame.

Parker, brought here from Chester S. C., and held at Kilby Prison since Jan. 30, had maintained an alibi that he was in the South Carolina city at the time of the slaying, but later told officers that he was here "the week before."

The negro, Dixon, who had been held by the City since Jan. 26 in connection with a burglary, became implicated in the dual murder at midnight Saturday when Detective Frizzle and Officer Stanton, acting on the tip, instituted a search of the negro's home on Withers Street.

#### Bloodstained Knife

This search, they said, led to discovery beneath the house of a blood-stained pocketknife and blue work shirt which had been carefully wrapped in a woman's garment, later identified as the property of Dixon's mother. An admission by Louise Butler, the negro's mother, that the knife was "Charlie's," sent the officers to Dixon's cell and resulted in his subsequent removal to Kilby Prison.

His confession of the double murder, officers said, was made at Kilby about 10:30 a.m., yesterday, in the presence of Solicitor Temple Seibels, Chief of Detectives Paul Rapport, Frank Boswell, warden at Kilby, Detectives Frizzle and Dennison, and Sheriff Haygood Paterson.

Dixon was quoted by officers as admitting:

"That the knife and shirt were his; that he had stabbed both Miss Bullard and Nichols to death, and that he had 'jes come up on 'em (the two victims) while I was walking through the thicket."

At first, the negro was said to have told the officers that he "was chased away" by Nichols, and to have intimated that he fought the white man in self-defense.

#### Story Rather Hazy

As for details of the tragedy, Col. W. P. Screws, police commissioner, said he understood the negro's story to be "rather hazy."

The shirt found by the officers was an ordinary workman's blue shirt and was torn but slightly. It was covered by blood. The knife, a cheap make with one side of the handle broken off, had a blade of two and one-fourth inches, slightly broken at the tip, and also stained with blood.

The negro, whose home is not far from the scene of the gruesome slayings, was seized Jan. 26 by Charles Sealey, watchman for the Montgomery Beverage Company, as he and two other negroes fled from an alley behind the plant on Tallopoosa Street. Mr. Sealey turned Dixon over to Po-

licemen Bryant and Holt.

Investigation revealed that Dixon was wanted for an alleged theft of shirts from the Southland Manufacturing plant at Grady Street and the Mobile Road, on Jan. 24, a week after the slayings; that he recently had been released from a Federal prison at Springfield, Mo., where he had served a term for an interstate theft, at Montgomery, and that he at one time had been confined to an insane asylum.

#### Suspected Since Jan. 20

Officers conducting the investigation said they had suspected Dixon of complicity in the case since Jan. 20, but that they had been unable to obtain a definite clue until the finding, at midnight Saturday, of the tell-tale shirt and knife.

Louise Butler, Dixon's mother, also was arrested, but officers said they were satisfied she had had no part in the slaying other than possibly the shielding of her son through hiding or assisting to hide, the shirt and knife.

It was said that the Montgomery County Grand Jury, meeting in regular session this morning, would be presented with all facts unearthed to date.

#### Bodies Mutilated

The double slaying came to light here Jan. 18, when the body of the blue-eyed blond, Miss Bullard, was discovered in the thicket by John Mosely, of 731 Pollard Street, and Nichols's body was found shortly afterwards by Officer W. H. Collins. Both had been horribly mutilated.

Early police investigation led to information that: The estranged common-law husband of Miss Bullard—Parker—had been in Montgomery a short time before the slaying, and that Miss Bullard, about that time, had told a fellow cotton mill worker that she had received a warning she would be killed.

It was on this information that Parker was arrested in South Carolina and returned to Montgomery.

## B'HAM LISTS ONE KILLING LAST MONTH

### Records Show Only Few Precedents In Nation's Cities

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BIRMINGHAM, Ala.—(SNS)—Birmingham, whose large mixed

industrial population caused it to be recorded for the month of January, 1937, with a record of only as some of the reasons. achieve the record of homicidal. During the past three or one homicide, is the best in the capital of the world only a few years police officials have en-history of the Birmingham Police years ago, was deserving of praise for its efforts to give special attention Department. Many reasons for the decrease today because of a January homicide to assault and murder cases and Police Inspector in homicides were given. Closer by a few if any large cities. According to Police Inspector in cooperation between police inves- For the first time in the history since 1913 the month of January stiffer ory of old timers or in the history since 1913 the month of January sentences, more convictions, bet- of the city only one homicide was had an average of 5 to 7 ho-



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"How old are you, Charley?" asked the reporter, after Charley had been brought down for questioning through the courtesy of Sheriff Haygood Paterson and Hamp Draper, Sheriff Paterson's accomplice, who reported to the first on and heard the interview and took part in the questioning. Charley the reporter had finished.

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"How many times have you been in the pen?" was the next question and Charley enumerated Kilby a couple of times and one or two other prisons.

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The prisoner rambled a good deal during his questioning but after he admitted there was a white man who drove him near the cemetery on the night of the murder, he did not waver on the point and Sheriff Paterson questioned him minutely on that point.

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"He didn't say nothing," said the prisoner.

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"Where did you meet the white man the night of the slayings?" he was queried.

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Since his confession Sunday morning, officers said the negro had made several conflicting statements.

One official quoted Dixon as saying that he had been hired by a white man to commit the crime. Another quoted him as saying, earlier, that no white man had been involved. Conflicting statements as to whether he had attacked Miss Bullard also were credited to Dixon.

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In their early investigation, police said they had been informed that Miss Charley Dixon, negro, the confessed slayer of Miss Dora Bullard and Bullard had received threats, made, presumably, by Parker.

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Killings-1937

## NEGRO WOMAN KILLS ANOTHER THEN SELF

An unusual case was in Birmingham police records today—murder and suicide of Negro women. Willie Brown, 30, fatally shot Ada B. Herman, 24, and then shot and killed herself. The shooting occurred at 16th-st and Third-av. s.

## Negro Jailed At Greenville For Grocer's Death

### R. L. Teague, 63, Dies After Being Struck In Argument Over Money

GREENVILLE, ALA., March 21.—(Special)—Although feeling ran high for a time this afternoon, sheriff's deputies anticipated no trouble here tonight following the capture, at Flomaton, near the Florida line, of Edward Owen, negro, in connection with the death of R. L. Teague, 63-year-old grocer of West Commerce Street.

Mr. Teague, operator of a small store in the mill section of this community, died about 3:40 p.m., a few minutes after he was struck over the temple by a negro customer identified as Owen. Just before his death, Mr. Teague told officers that the difficulty resulted from an argument over a small amount of change.

As soon as they learned of the assault, a group of citizens offered their services to the sheriff's department and a posse would have taken the field had not Owen been captured, two hours later, at Flomaton.

Sheriff's Deputy J. T. Sanders said tonight that Owen would be charged with murder.

It was reported that Mr. Teague had suffered from heart disease and some expressed the belief that this might have contributed to his death.

### Imore Negroes

### Held In Slayings

WETUMPKA, ALA., March 30.—(Special)—Sheriff Will Austin and his deputies were busy over the weekend rounding up negro violators of the law in Elmore County. Two negroes were involved in shooting scrapes, resulting in the death of one and the probable fatal wounding of another.

In a quarrel following a Saturday night dance in the Ware community, Jack Edwards, young negro man, was shot and killed and Phillip Brown, negro youth, was arrested charged

his murder. 3-31-37  
At Deatsville, another shooting occurred among negroes. James Howard, 50-year-old negro was shot and killed by Willie Jones, another negro charged with the crime. A jail awaiting the outcome of Howard's injuries.

A truck belonging to Elmer Weldon was stolen from his back yard Sunday night. The negro who was caught with the truck "meant to haul some liquor and get the truck back before it was missed."

Other arrests included cases of public drunkenness and two cases of disorderly conduct — two women, one white and the other a negro, had their husbands arrested and placed under peace bonds.

## SENTENCE IN DEATH CASE IS TEN DAYS

### Negro Woman Given Benefit Of Doubt

Leola Telley, Negro, was sentenced today to 10 days in jail in Criminal Court today for the knife death of E. T. Mays, Negro, last Christmas morning.

Leola was sentenced by Circuit Judge J. Russell McElroy upon recommendation of the solicitor's office after she had pleaded guilty to second degree manslaughter.

Edward Thornton, assistant solicitor who handled the case, said the question of whether Mays was stabbed by Leola or walked into the knife was in dispute. If Leola had been brandishing the knife—a misdemeanor—and Mays had died as a result of this misdemeanor, the woman would have been guilty of second degree manslaughter, the assistant solicitor said.

The state also had taken into consideration that Leola had been in jail since Christmas, that costs in the case would keep her in jail six months more and that Mays had entered the house where his death occurred with a brick in his hand, Mr. Thornton added.

The principals in the case had been drinking, he said.

### Dallas Negro May Die Of Knife Wound

SELMA, ALA., April 5.—(Special)—Frank Brown, negro of the Minter community, probably will die of knife wounds said to have been inflicted by Annie Brown, his wife, who deputies from the sheriff's office are seeking on a charge of murder. Brown is in the Samaritan Hospital, where this condition was said Monday to be critical. The cutting and affray took place late Saturday night in the street at Minter.

## Negro Sentenced In Race Riot Case

### Charges Grow Out Of Reeltown Trouble

DADEVILLE, ALA., April 6.—(P)—W. C. Warren, 50-year-old negro pleaded guilty today in Tallapoosa Circuit Court and received a two and a half year sentence on assault with intent to murder charges growing out of the bloody Reeltown race riots of 1932.

John Warren, 19-year-old son of W. C., was freed of similar charges after his father was sentenced. The State not proessed the charges.

Sheriff Cliff Corprew said five negroes had been sentenced to prison and he still had "several unserved indictments in the five-year-old cases. Three of the cases were brought here today by the defense as witnesses, but developments made their appearance unnecessary.

Sheriff Corprew said he found and arrested the Warrens three months ago.

It was in December, 1932, that the riots first flared. Two negroes were killed and four deputies sheriff wounded when the officers attempted to serve a repleven warrant for a cow and mule. The shooting occurred at the home of Cliff James.

Sporadic rioting and shootings continued for days. The dead and wounded toll never was officially recorded, but six negroes were known to have been killed.

The State charged the negroes were "being influenced by communists."

Attorneys for the negroes said landlords resented the negroes becoming members of the Sharecroppers Union and this led to the rioting.

The National Committee for Defense of Political Prisoners brought R. G. Kelton, of Oneonta, here today as attorney for the Warren couple. Sheriff Corprew said.

Set for trial tomorrow is the case of Ira Marable, sentenced to life imprisonment four years ago in the slaying of his wife. He gained a reversal of sentence in the State Supreme Court.

## Giant Negro Killer Caught; Sheriff To Return Him Here

Armed both with requisition and extradition papers, Sheriff Haygood of Paterson and Deputy Sim Butler will leave today for a junket across the continent to Stockton, Calif., to return Walter Davis, giant negro killer of Policeman Raymond B. Mathis, here for trial. The round trip, which is to be made by automobile, will be completed in from 12 to 14 days, Sheriff Paterson thought. Sheriff Paterson said he had been advised that Davis, who was indicted soon after the

## Crazed Negro Shoots Dallas County Man

SELMA, ALA., April 19.—(Special)—Elbert Murphy was shot and killed by Ed Crawford, negro, at 6:30 o'clock last night after the former, who had terrorized the entire community, had shot twice through a door in a house and had threatened several persons, including Will Wade Selma shoe store operator and kinsman of Mrs. Addie Harrison, on whose place the shooting occurred.

Crawford, who was pursued by Murphy after he hid in a negro house from which its occupants had fled in fear, found a shotgun in a corner of one room, and when Murphy came up to the door, Crawford fired a load of buckshot which entered the former's heart. He died instantly. Crawford came into Selma and gave himself up at the county jail.

The shooting was investigated by Sheriff Sam Reynolds. Arraignment of Crawford will be held soon.

## BLIND NEGRO ADMITS MURDER, IS SENTENCED

BIRMINGHAM, Ala., June 15.—(P)—A blind negro who killed another negro with a pistol and then had his body thrown into an abandoned mine shaft was sentenced today to 15 years' imprisonment when he pleaded guilty to a second-degree murder charge.

Officers said the negro, Robert Watts, grabbed hold of his victim and placed the gun against his head.

## Murder Charge Placed Against Houston Negro

DOTHAN, ALA., July 6.—(Special)—George Maloy, 21-year-old negro, is being held in the Houston County jail here charged with murder in the fatal shooting of Elbert Gamble, negro, at a dance Saturday night off the Dothan-Alaga Road. Gamble was shot one time through the left side of his chest with a .32 caliber pistol. He ran on the dance floor and fell dead in the yard. Sheriff Alex May said. Maloy was arrested at Columbia several hours later.

night of April 30, 1936, when he ended the life of Police Mathis in a shotgun battle at Jackson Streets, and admitted his identity, the killing and would have extradition.

But not caring to run the risk of a change of mind which might lead the negro to recant his decision to come without fighting extradition, the sheriff said he had equipped himself with extradition papers, which will insure the return of the prisoner.

Associated Press dispatches from Stockton state that the negro, an expugilist, was arrested for participation in a beer garden brawl. Thus the prophecy of several policemen who were familiar with his proclivities came to pass.

When it became apparent that the negro, although singular because of his size and fine physique, had eluded probably the most intensive and extensive manhunt pursued in the city for a long period, some predicted that Davis's addiction to alcohol—often in the form of canned heat—would lead him to jail.

Routinely, and with this hope—and a fervent hope it has been—the negro's fingerprints and offense were forwarded to the Department of Justice.

When taken in tow in Stockton, it is understood that Davis gave his name as "Ed Hall." Identification, it is stated, followed from comparison of circulated fingerprints in possession of Stockton authorities.

Last Friday The Advertiser contained an anniversary retrospect of the murder, stating that the negro was still at large. But it was an error that no one could point to, for not even Stockton authorities knew that the troublesome giant they had arrested for a misdemeanor was Walter Davis—that they had taken a killer into custody on the first anniversary of his crime.

## ARTHUR IS DEAD—HE ARGUED OVER A DIME

If Arthur Williams, Negro, of 2014 Lomb-av. had been willing to give up his claim to 10 cents in a dice game last night, he probably would be alive today.

But Arthur argued about the dime and finally another negro stabbed him, wounding him badly.

Police placed Willie Craft, 1501 Second-av. w. in City Jail on a murder charge.



# Autopsy Ordered In Talladega Death

## Convicted Textile Strike Slayer Found Hung

TALLADEGA, ALA., May 19—(AP) —Coroner Max Hawkins ordered an autopsy tonight to determine the cause of the death of Eugene (Red) Thornton, under sentence of 20 years imprisonment in connection with a picket line battle here last Summer. Thornton was found hanging from a cross bar in his cell in county jail early today. Coroner Hawkins said bruises and abrasions were found on the victim's head.

A coroner's jury, held on its verdict pending the outcome of the post-mortem examination.

Mrs. E. R. Haynes, wife of the jailer, discovered the body when she took Thornton's breakfast to his cell. Haynes said other prisoners told him they had been disturbed during the previous night by loud cries from Thornton's cell.

Thornton was convicted on a second degree murder charge in the slaying of Joe C. Hayes, restaurant proprietor in the picket line battle at Samoset Mills here July 22, 1936. Then other textile union members, indicted in the killing of Hayes and John J. Bryant, chief deputy sheriff, were released under bonds.

Roderick Beddow attorney for the unionmen said Thornton had been despondent recently. The attorney said he had expected to visit Thornton within the next few days.

# Snowdown Negro Held In Slaying

John Henry Thomas, 22, negro, was being held in the county jail yesterday on a charge of murder which grew out of the slaying of another negro, Jim Hawkins, who died late yesterday afternoon, A. W. Deavers, night warden, said.

Thomas, who surrendered and was brought to jail by his landlord, Noble Huddleston, said in his cell that trouble began between him and the dead man Thursday. At this time, he averred, Hawkins took his wife and baby to live with him.

Armed with a .44 deringer, Thomas said he went to Hawkins's house and called out to his wife. His rival, he said, came to the door and that was when he shot him.

# Elmore County Negro Dies Of Pistol Wounds

WETUMPKA, ALA., July 30.—(Special)—Cleveland Washington, 30, negro, died at the Wetumpka Hospital as a result of pistol wounds inflicted, officers said, by L. P. Powell, an Elmore County farmer, who lives about 10 miles north of Wetumpka.

The shooting occurred, police said, in Henry Bachelor's blacksmith shop yesterday. Powell, an over-ser for Mr. Bachelor, is said to have accused the negro of stealing Bachelor's chickens, and the negro, it is alleged, struck at Powell with a ploughshare. Failing to hit Powell, the negro is said to have ran from the shop and reappeared with an ax. Powell then opened fire with his pistol and fatally wounded the negro, officers reported.

Shortly after the occurrence, it is said, Powell came to Wetumpka and reported the shooting to officers.

# Who Swung Razor-Knife In Cemetery?

Some Still Speculate On Solution To Mystery Of Twin Murder

By GROVER HALL, JR.

There were angles and angles in the murder of Dora Bullard and Leon K. Nichols under a cypress tree behind Oakwood cemetery on Jan. 17. Different investigators put these angles together in different ways and got different answers.

Police Commissioner W. P. Screws and his investigators have filed a report of the case and placed it in the pigeonhole for "solved cases." They assert that the arrest of Charlie Dixon, negro, whom the Circuit Court committed to an asylum for the insane, solved the murder.

Sheriff Haygood Paterson's opinion is that the arrest, indictment and arraignment of the loony negro solved nothing. A report of the Bullard-Nichols case, in his department, has been filed in the pigeonhole of "unsolved cases." Moreover, the report these days is still taken out for reference. The sheriff is yet trying to unravel what he regards as a tough—a very tough—case.

**Coroner Only Chuckles**

Coroner M. B. Kirkpatrick chuckles softly when this reporter asks him if he thinks Dixon hacked the couple to quick death.

And this writer, after months of having listened to the arguments of all the investigators, still looks forward to the time when he may occupy a column of the front page with a definite, unquestionable announcement of the solution.

The bodies of the honey-colored, blonde and her slim companion were the objects of a fiendishly thorough assassin. The scene smacked so much of a slaughter house that Coroner Kirkpatrick excogitated:

"The man who did this is either a sex-mad degenerate or a jealous lover."

Next day the police arrested a snaggle-tooth little fellow who might have fallen into the "jealous lover" category. For he said he had been a close friend of the dead woman's but his wife didn't like it and he returned home and that James Parker had threatened him with violence if he didn't, he claimed.

After quite a chase, South Carolina authorities apprehended "Jealous Lover" James Parker, Miss Bullard's common law husband. The tattered, square-jawed fellow looked like a good bet for a time.

**'I'll Talk Tomorrow'**

When they first brought him here he told this writer: "I'll talk tomorrow—I'm too tired tonight." But Parker made that promise every night while he was kept here for grilling. It didn't matter so much then, it appeared, because several people swore they had seen him during the week preceding the murder. And several told of his threats "to Dora if he ever saw her with another man."

Then, too, Leota, the fortune teller, had told Miss Bullard that she was going to be murdered. And Miss Bullard was known to have been oppressed by a fear of being killed.

Everybody, including this writer, Commissioner Screws, Sheriff Paterson and our noisy milk boy, was convinced that James Parker was guilty.

Investigators found it disconcerting when a stream of affidavits began flowing in from South Carolina attesting the suspect's presence there up until two days before the crime. What was more, those who had previously seen Parker here were not so sure they had seen him here after all.

# One Bloody Shirt

Then a bombshell exploded and seemed to rend the case against Parker. Detectives found a bloody shirt and knife underneath the home of Charlie Dixon. Obviously, the knife was the murder weapon and the shirt was that worn by Dixon when he did the couple to death. The same night Dixon readily confessed the murder. Open and shut case. To make sure they took the negro to the cemetery and told him to reenact the crime. It was reported that he did so with such graphic detail as to dispel any residual doubt of his guilt.

Upshot of this was that the grand jury met and indictments were sought against both Dixon and Parker, though an attempt to prove that they collaborated on the crime was a fizzle. At the time there was a report that the negro said he had been paid to commit the crime. That was poppycock.

The grand jury returned a true bill in the case of Dixon but refused to indict Parker.

**And F. B. I. Spoils It**

Next day the bombshell—i.e., the

such times as a restoration of sanity might occur.

But Lawyers Crosland and Sullivan were not satisfied with having saved Client Dixon from Kilby's chair. They vigorously set about learning who put the knife and shirt, bearing chicken blood under Dixon's house with such sinister intent.

# Looks Bad For Someone

Solicitor W. T. Seibels was likewise interested and he closeted him-elf with a negro stool pigeon whom the detective said discovered that Dixon's mother had concealed the "evidence" when Charlie confided his deed to her.

But even the solicitor Sunday grows and howls could get nothing from the stool pigeon as to the phony evidence. The lawyers likewise failed. We talked to him. All we learned was that the pock-marked fellow was wasive and uncommonly shrewd.

And so far as the reporter knows, the life history of the "evidence" has never been learned. The opinion shared by most is that the stool pigeon was smart enough to know that the evidence could be used to good advantage by an unknowing prosecution. In the event of a conviction he would come into a sizeable share of the \$200 reward offered by Gov. Graves. But he was not informed enough to foresee the havoc which was wrought on his merciless design by the laboratory.

Nothing was ever done with him and he's probably putting in full time at his stove repairing these days.

**But there are many shrewd fellows in the police department who are sincere in their belief of Dixon's guilt. They are persuaded that although Dixon is crazy, the reenactment of his crime can not be explained in terms other than his guilt.**

To that argument there are those investigators who point suggestively to the fact that among the group that escorted Dixon to the cemetery there was not one who viewed the bodies of Dora Bullard and Leon K. Nichols. It is argued that Dixon may have made moves in his reenactment which were at odds with the facts. For example, he might have case against the negro—turned out to be a dud! A chemist of the Federal Bureau of Investigation subjected the blood on the shirt and knife found under Dixon's home and found it to be not that of a human, but that of some animal.

**Then State Toxicologist H. M. Nixon was charged with analyzing the "evidence." He not only concurred with the F. B. I. chemist, but went him one better. He established that the blood was that of a chicken. And by way of underscoring his findings, he employed the use of a camera equipped to record microscopical objects. These photographs show fibres of chicken feathers embedded in a blood clot.**

This revelation shattered all the corroborative evidence against the negro. The case which remained lay in his confession. Dixon's energetic

lawyers, David W. Crosland and Dennis Sullivan, who were appointed to defend the negro, began to scrutinize the confession.

They learned, for instance, that Dixon came from a confessing line. His mother once sat in a Lowndes County witness chair and admitted that she had slain her niece. Two of her then small children testified that they had witnessed the murder as they looked out of their shack towards the river with the corpse of the man's arms and legs off and started dis-towards the river with the corpus delicti.

# A Body Strolls In

After Louise Butler, Dixon's mother, had spent a few months in prison her niece—otherwise the corp- strolled back into town and told of her refreshing sojourn in Selma. She had left when Louise whaled the stuffin' out of her for philandering with George Yelders.

The court appointed a sanity commission to examine the negro. Dr. W. D. Partlow, superintendent of the State hospitals for the insane, soon announced that the negro was "wholly irresponsible" and that any confession he might have made should be discounted. Judge Eugene Carter committed Dixon to remain at Searcy Hospital for the Negro Insane until said Nichols died with a cigaret in his hand. Since no member of the escort had seen the bodies, how could they correct him.

The familiarity Dixon displayed with the scene might have been gained by having been one of the scores of people who viewed the scene before the earth absorbed the blood. It is reasonable to assume that he might have heard several speculate on just how the murderer wrought his deed. If he did hear such, as Dr. Partlow will tell you, he immediately appropriated the deed to his own experience.

At any rate the sheriff's department thinks there is good reason for prosecuting the investigation.



Killings - 1937

Alabama.

## Parker Continues In Custody While Authorities Check Alibi

Despite an unequivocal confession of Charlie Dixon, deranged negro, to the Bullard-Nichols murder, and accumulating evidence substantiating his heinous claim, evidence against James Parker, charged with the murder, is "too strong," to warrant dismissal of the charge now, Sheriff Haygood Paterson said last night.

The sheriff made it plain that he was far from sure that the negro, former inmate of an asylum for the insane did not have an accomplice in his savage work.

"Will Parker be absolved of any connection with the murder now that Dixon has taken full blame for the crime and stated that he never saw Parker before in his life?" the sheriff was asked.

"No. We still regard Parker as a suspect and we have evidence against him of a kind that cannot be disregarded. He insists that he was in South Carolina from Jan. 10 to Jan. 23. But from his rambling account of his whereabouts during the period added to information received from Miss Bullard's family that he had threatened her life and any man seeking her company, leads me to doubt his alibi. However, Department of Justice agents are checking on his alibi and we expect a report by Wednesday night. Naturally if his alibi is proven, he will be exonerated," Sheriff Paterson replied with some emphasis.

"Sheriff, do you mean by this that Parker may either have caused Dixon to commit the murders, or that he might have slain one of the couple himself?"

Sheriff Paterson declined to answer this question. From this point on in the interview the sheriff's comments were represented as nothing more than surmises.

"There is some reason to believe," declared that a "white man" hired Sheriff Paterson said, "that Miss Bullard and Nichols were returning to Boylston by a circuitous route in order to escape the notice of someone looking for them. They may have paused behind the cemetery to await cover of darkness so they might return unnoticed. We're working on that angle."

"We're also working on the angle that someone other than the negro trailed them right up to the scene. Possibly a fourth man stood by and watched Dixon do his work. There is evidence that the murderers may have numbered two."

There was a decided difference in the wounds which killed Miss Bullard and those which killed Nichols, it was emphatically stated last night by an expert in such matters who examined the knife wounds. The source said he was positive that one knife did not

deal both deaths. His reasons:

1. Miss Bullard's wounds were small and short, the longest of which was not over two inches in length.
2. Nichols's wounds were long slashes and deep stabs. There were at least 24 such stabs in the back of his neck. It must have taken at least ten minutes of slashing to complete such a mutilation.

## NEGRO CONFESSES TO DOUBLE CRIME

Alabama Sheriff Says Man Admits Killing C. at Briar Patch Rendezvous

MONTGOMERY, Ala., Feb. 7 (AP)—

Sheriff Haygood Paterson said tonight that Charlie Dixon, 24-year-old Negro, confessed to the brutal slaying of Dora Bullard, 22, and Leon K. Nichols, 37, textile workers at a secluded meeting place behind Oakwood cemetery Jan. 17.

The confession followed a "tip" to officers that the Negro, under arrest since Jan. 26 on a burglary charge, was the man who slashed the throats of the pretty girl and her companion in a briar patch thicket behind the cemetery Sunday afternoon Jan. 17.

The sheriff said that James Parker, close friend of the girl, who was arrested in Chester, S. C., more than a week ago, was still being held in Montgomery county jail.

The Negro, Sheriff Paterson said, declared that a "white man" hired him to kill the couple, but "gave only a vague description of the man."

Confession "Erratic"

The confession, Sheriff Paterson said, was made in the presence of Police Commissioner William P. Screws, Warden Frank Boswell of Kilby prison, and others, at Kilby prison tonight.

"After telling his story of the white man who hired him," the sheriff said, "the Negro's story became erratic and he appeared tired, so we decided to let him rest and question him further tomorrow."

"His story of the white man was rather vague but I think there may be something to that phase of it," spired with him in the dual murder.

Police Commissioner Screws said Parker was not alone when the negro

that a "grapevine tip" came to City Detectives Clark Frizzle and W. D. Stanton that sent them to the Negro's house.

There they found, Commissioner Screws said, a blood-stained knife wrapped in a blood-stained work shirt.

## Dixon's Trial Held Up For Lunacy Test

Accused Slayer Of Two  
Is Ordered To Asylum  
On His Arraignment

Adjured by a commission of three local physicians as mentally defective, Charley Dixon, 22-year-old negro who has confessed to slaying Miss Dora Bullard and Leon K. Nichols near Oakwood Cemetery, was committed to hospital for the insane at Mount Vernon for observation yesterday on order of Judge Eugene W. Carter of the Montgomery Circuit Court.

Dixon, arraigned along with a number of other prisoners charged with capital offenses, was ready to plead guilty, but his counsel, appointed by the court, interceded with a plea of not guilty and not guilty by reason of insanity. After receiving the report of the three doctors, Judge Carter prepared his order of commitment and Dixon was sent to the asylum for negroes.

In their report, the commission advised the court: "We, the undersigned, according to your instructions, have examined Charley Dixon and find that, in our opinion, he is markedly mentally defective, and is a paranoiac in type, and should be committed to Mount Vernon for observation." The report was signed by Drs. Haywood Bartlett, H. B. Wilkinson and Fred Reynolds.

Members of the sheriff's office and police department who were in the courtroom when the insanity report was made were not surprised. Some of them expressed the opinion that Dixon had nothing whatsoever to do with the slaying of the couple several weeks ago.

Atty. David Crosland, who with Dennis Sullivan, was appointed to present the negro at trial, said Dixon would have confessed to killing Abraham Lincoln if someone had asked him if he really did assassinate the president. The negro is said to be imbued with the idea that he has killed several people in recent years.

Dixon helped to exonerate James Parker of the crime by failing to identify him as the man who conspired with him in the dual murder.

Police Commissioner Screws said Parker was not alone when the negro

was asked to pick out the man, it was said.

In his commitment order, Judge Carter directed the sheriff to deliver Dixon to the superintendent of the State hospital for the insane, who is charged with the duty of placing the defendant under the observation and examination of himself and two members of his medical staff, to be named by him, constituting a commission of lunacy, with a view of determining the mental condition of Dixon and the existence of any mental disease or defect which would affect his present criminal responsibility or his criminal responsibility at the time of the commission of the crimes charged against him.

The same physicians at the hospital for the insane at Tuscaloosa examine patients at Mount Vernon, it was stated.

Regardless of the outcome of the examination and observation, the negro will not be tried at the present term of court. If he is adjudged sane, he will be returned to Montgomery for trial at the next session of the criminal docket.

Other capital prisoners will be tried March 1, 2 and 3. The following were arraigned yesterday: J. B. Chandler, robbery; Sidney Ballard, alias Pete Ballard, murder; Carrie Darby, murder; Vinson Gibbs, Marvin Hughes, Edward Brown, J. L. Johnson, Alexander Panko, Leon Perdue, Charles Williams and Gordon Pearson, all for robbery; Thaddeus Williams, Willie Cade, Eddie Taylor, Eugene Smith, Richard Scott, Clarence Poole, and Cliff Knuckles, murder; and Ed Williams, criminal assault.

## Dixon's Mother Once Confessed—'By Mistake'

Further investigation of the case against Charlie Dixon, reputedly deranged negro under indictment for the murder of Dora Bullard and Leon Nichols, has been halted, it was indicated last night by Police Commissioner W. P. Screws, who said that a bloody shirt and knife found under the home of the suspect had not been tested to determine if the blood was that of the victims.

Dixon's mother, Louise Butler, whose bibulous talk led to the arrest of her son, is supposedly mentally deficient too in view of the fact that she once confessed to a murder which never occurred.

In 1928 the body of a negro woman was found in Lowndes County. Although in an unrecognizable state, it was identified as a resident of the community.

She Confessed

Louise was charged with the slaying and she readily confessed, saying that she stabbed the woman to death. Then by way of removing all doubt of her guilt, she led investigators to a creek bank.

There she reenacted her "crime." She pointed to a bench nearby and explained that was where she had

tied weights on the body of her "victim" in order that it would sink when thrown into the creek.

A grand jury indicted her; a petit jury found her guilty of first degree murder and sentenced her to life imprisonment.

So Louise went to prison. She served three months, when the woman she had "murdered" returned to the vicinity. Not one scratch did she have upon her. Louise got a permanent parole, Commissioner Screws said.

The body that Louise "mistakenly" identified has never been identified. And Dixon Did Too

The investigation of Detective Sergt. Clark Frizzle led to the discovery of the shirt and knife under Dixon's home. In jail already for burglary, Dixon is said to have then readily confessed the double murder.

He said the blue shirt was the one he wore when he came upon Miss Bullard and Nichols behind Oakwood Cemetery, and slashed them to death. The broken-tipped knife, he is quoted as saying, was the murder weapon.

Later, Commissioner Screws said, he accompanied the negro to the scene of the murder and Dixon led his police escort to the exact spot where the bodies were later discovered by a man looking for a cow.

Louise is being held in jail as a material witness, Commissioner Screws said, adding that he felt sure investigators held enough evidence to convict the negro.

## Parker Free As Suspect In Dual Murder

Counsel Victim Of Joke;  
Week Of Court Opens  
With Pleas Of Guilty

James Parker, brought here from South Carolina on a warrant charging double murder, was freed yesterday morning without having to utter a word when brought into the Circuit court room. Habeas corpus proceedings, which he instituted several days ago, were set for hearing Monday, but Parker gained his freedom without having to go through the formality of a trial.

The Grand Jury having failed to indict him last week, the solicitor advised the judge yesterday he had no evidence on which to hold the man. Neither the sheriff's office nor police department made any effort to keep him in jail, and Judge Eugene E. Carter ordered him released.

First to absolve Parker of any connection with the brutal murder of Miss Dora Bullard and Leon



Nichols, whose badly hacked bodies were found near Oakwood Cemetery, was Charlie Dixon, negro prisoner, who has confessed the slaying of the couple. Brought face to face with Parker about a week ago, Charlie said he had never seen the man before.

Several deputies and other persons in the courtroom got a hearty laugh out of a joke played on Jonah Berman, counsel for Parker, before the prisoner was released Monday. Atty. Berman was in the courtroom ready for the habeas corpus hearing when someone whispered to him that Parker had been freed and had gone back to South Carolina.

#### Only a Practical Joke

Not suspecting a joke, the lawyer dashed over to the county jail and told the city jailer he wanted to see his client. The jailer carried the joke a step further by informing Mr. Berman the city did not have Parker. Seeing the perturbed look on the attorney's face, the jailer then explained that the city had turned the prisoner over to the county. To the county jailer he then turned, told him of what he had heard and insisted upon going to the cell to make sure Parker was there. The obliging jailer led the attorney to the cell and Atty. Berman realized he had been made the victim of a practical joke.

Jubilant over his release, Parker said his prayer had been answered. He indicated he would return to Chester, S. C., as soon as he could raise enough money for railroad fare.

The Dixon negro was escorted into the courtroom yesterday morning, along with many other prisoners, some of whom were held on capital offenses. Dixon was among those indicted for murder or robbery who told Judge Carter he did not have counsel to represent him at trial, which will be about March 1. The judge has not assigned lawyers to capital cases yet but will do so Friday morning when he arraigns those charged with crimes for which the death penalty may be exacted.

#### Others Plead Guilty

A number of other prisoners were arraigned Monday and their cases set for trial this week and next. Most of those who pleaded guilty were sentenced. Yesterday's opening day of the criminal docket was taken up with cases appealed from the recorder's court and a few continued from the last term of Circuit Court.

The following prisoners pleaded guilty: Bill Ackman and Jim McCall, grand larceny, not sentenced; Jim Vernn, grand larceny, 3 to 4 years; Sayland Brown, forgery, 2 to 3 years; James Dunn, burglary and grand larceny, 2 to 3 years; James Griffin and Edward Prater, grand larceny not sentenced; Golly Green, two cases of grand larceny and receiving stolen property, not sentenced; Jasper Hopkins, grand larceny, 2 to 3 years; Sam Johnson, three cases grand larceny, 2 to 3 years in each case; Clyde Joiner, burglary, not sentenced; Sam Meredith, grand larceny and embezzlement, 2 to 3 years; Willson Patrick and George Robinson, two cases burglary and

grand larceny not sentenced; John Robinson, burglary and grand larceny, 3 to 4 years; Joshua Scott, burglary, 3 to 5 years; Sam Shadreck grand larceny, 2 to 3 years; Charlie Thomas, grand larceny, 2 to 3 years; Ernest Thomas, not sentenced; Rayfield Thomas and Rayfield Thomas, Jr., grand larceny, 2 to 3 years each; James Tyson grand larceny, 2 to 3 years; Alfred James Ware, two cases grand larceny, 2 to 3 years in each case; Robert Emmet, assault to murder, pleaded guilty to assault and battery and agreed to take a fine of \$200; John Oscar Hood, assault to murder 2 years to 2 years and six months.

Jurors to serve this week follow: M. D. Barrett, T. A. Bowling, W. C. Boyd, Lonnie T. Brown, Frank R. Charles, Henry A. Douglas, Haynes V. Green, Perry A. Hewitt, Homer F. Johnson, R. T. Kirkland, A. L. Laney, Frank G. Lassiter, Alva B. Levystein, Joseph G. Mathews, R. L. McConnell, J. W. McLeod, Joe Nugent, Neilsen B. O'Rear, Jackson C. Ott, John Burns Paterson, Jack Peebles, Samuel Pharr, Robert A. Porter, Jr., Rutledge B. Powers, Merritt B. Redden, Thomas J. Reynolds, J. L. Schaeffer, Andrew Smith, Allie B. Sullivan, Robert L. Talley, Thomas S. Turk, and George A. Wright.

#### Commutation Saves

#### Negro From Chair

Gov. Graves yesterday commuted to life imprisonment the death sentence of Joseph Willie Crowell, Jefferson County negro, who was to have been executed at State Prison tonight shortly after midnight, for the murder of Sam Pilato, Birmingham merchant. Pilato was the victim of a hold-up killing who shot and mortally wounded him. Crowell was convicted of the crime, but stoutly maintained his innocence.

Following hearing of his clemency plea before the Governor and the State Pardon Board, two members of the board, Secretary of State Howell Turner and Atty. Gen. Albert A. Carmichael, recommended commutation, on the ground that Crowell's identity had not been sufficiently well established. Judge Charles E. McCall, State Auditor, denied the plea.

#### Negro Acquitted In Vaughan's Slaying

SELMA, ALA., Feb. 25.—(Special)—A jury in the trial of Frank Fikes, negro, charged with the murder of Grey C. Vaughan, member of one of Dallas County's most prominent families and a brother of W. M. Vaughan, probate judge of Dallas County, returned a verdict of not guilty at 6:45 p.m. Thursday following a short deliberation.

The jury foreman, Fred Miller, reported to Judge Arthur Glover, who is presiding over this term of Circuit Court in the absence of Judge John Miller, of Camden, who is ill. Solicitor Joseph James and Defense Atty.

T. G. Gayle were in frequent contact for crimes long forgotten by everyone—except the law. started about noon Thursday, with Dr. Drayton Doherty first to the stand.

#### Negro Is Accused Of Pistol Murder Of Man He Had Never Seen

BIRMINGHAM, ALA., March 2.—(P)—A charge of killing a man he had never seen was placed today against Robert Watts, 39-year-old negro.

Detective H. C. Propst said Watts, blind since birth, told officers he accidentally shot Sam Davis, another negro, when he struck Davis over the head with a pistol during an argument.

"I swung at him and the pistol went off," Propst quoted Watts as saying. "My wife told me he was dead."

Watts, according to the detective said he paid Dewitt Woodson, negro, \$20 to help him throw Davis's body down a 60-foot abandoned mine shaft.

Police investigated after Davis's family reported him missing and questioned Gertrude Watts, wife of the blind man, and Woodson. The two, Propst said, led officers to the mine shaft, where the body was found.

Watts told police he attended the State school for the blind nine years. He operated a negro dance hall here, where the shooting took place.

The blind negro was charged with first degree murder. His wife and Woodson were held as accessories after the fact.

Birmingham, Ala. News  
March 10, 1937

#### CITY NO LONGER IS CRIMINALS' HAVEN

#### Vigilance Of Local Police Puts Check On Practice Of Negro Slayers

The Birmingham district no longer is a haven for Negro murderers.

So say officers of the district. The same officers point out that it has long been the custom for Negroes who have committed murders in other cities to come to Birmingham, with its dense Negro section, and seek seclusion among numbers. As a result of constant war and watchfulness, officers say, many Negroes have been caught in this district and sent back to face trial

## NEGRO ADMITS KILLING COUPLE, SHERIFF SAYS

### Confession Is Claimed In Brutal Briar Patch Killing

MONTGOMERY, Ala., Feb. 7.—(P)—Sheriff Haygood Paterson said Sunday night that Charlie Dixon, 24-year-old Negro, confessed the brutal slaying of Dora Bullard, 22 and Leon K. Nichols, 37, textile workers at a secluded meeting place behind Oakwood Cemetery Jan. 17. The confession followed a "tip" to officers that the Negro under arrest since Jan. 26 on a burglary charge, was the man who slashed the throats of the pretty girl and her companion in a briar patch thicket behind the cemetery Sunday afternoon, Jan. 17.

The sheriff said that James Parker, who was arrested in Chester, S. C., more than a week ago, still was being held in Montgomery County Jail.

The Negro, Sheriff Paterson said, declared that a "white man" hired him to kill the couple, but "gave only a vague description of the man."

"It didn't appear to be Parker he was referring to," the sheriff said, "but we are still holding Parker for further investigation."

Parker, who once lived here, is held under a warrant charging first degree murder in connection with the case.

Also as a result of the practice, three Negroes were being held in Birmingham and Fairfield jails today on charges of suspicion of murder. The two in the City Jail are Woodrow Wilson, 19, and Will Boler, 22, both of 1101 Fourth Avenue, North.

They were arrested by Officers R. B. Tucker and B. F. Walker on information furnished by police officials at Eutaw, Ala. A Negro woman was murdered there months ago, the officers said, and Wilson and Boler are wanted for questioning in connection with the murder.

In Fairfield Jail was Frank Lee, alias Frank Thomas, 40, of Bessemer. He was arrested yesterday by Fairfield officers Lacey Alexander and W. R. Gunby for questioning in connection with the murder of another Negro, William Cook, in Montgomery last Summer.

#### Skull Blow Kills Negro; Another Held As Killer

John (Fire Boy) Taylor, negro, was charged with murder yesterday following the death of another negro, Willie Williams, whose death resulted from a skull blow inflicted with a whisky jug, Lieut. L. G. Earnest said. Taylor summoned police Thursday night and told them that he had struck Williams over the head following an argument over a whisky sale, which occurred in the farmer's store on Grady Street.

Williams was taken to a hospital for treatment of a fractured skull and died yesterday morning. The case against Taylor will be heard in the Recorder's Court following burial of the dead negro, police said.

#### Negro Held As Suspect In Stabbing Of Woman

Vinson Ray, 32-year-old negro, was placed in jail yesterday on suspicion in connection with the fatal stabbing about midnight Saturday of a negro woman, Lily Brown.

The woman is said to have received a knife in her back when she attempted to make peace between a quarreling man and a woman at the intersection of Garrison and Bellham Streets.

Policemen W. M. Stanley, Jr., and Louis Miller arrested the negro as the knife wielder.



Killings-1937

Alabama.

Birmingham, Ala. News  
September 14, 1937

## FARMER DIES OF BLOWS ON HEAD

Agricultural Conservation  
Head Of Coffee County  
Passes In Hospital

ENTERPRISE, Ala.—Death came to Ralph Gunter, 42, prominent farmer, chairman of the Coffee County Agricultural Conservation Association, Monday afternoon in a local hospital, one week—during which he did not regain consciousness—after he was found in a field near his home with his head severely bashed in.

Feeling is running high at New Brockton, near which Gunter lived, since Sheriff Otis Lightner and his deputies arrested and spirited away five Negroes suspected of connection with Gunter's death. One of the Negroes, Son Pugh, was a tenant on the Gunter farm, while the others who lived near by, were Son Clark, Berry Simmons, Charlie Moore and Bud Phelps Herron.

Gunter was discovered by his son Labor Day afternoon, lying near a tractor which he left home to operate shortly after noon. The farmer had received three blows, two in the forehead and one at the back of the head, apparently inflicted by an ax found near by. He never regained consciousness sufficient to make a coherent statement.

Gunter was a nephew of Jim Gunter, former Enterprise chief of police, and a son-in-law of Sam Morgan, of Elba, for several terms county treasurer.

Surviving are his wife; a son Howard Guy; two daughters, Katherine and Ralphine; a brother and several sisters. Funeral services were held Tuesday afternoon.

### Furnace Murder

#### Charged to Negro

MOBILE, Ala., Oct. 12 (P)—A giant Negro mill hand was accused today of hurling Chief Engineer Midd Draper of a power plant shrieking to his death in a blazing furnace because the white man criticized his work.

Draughn died October 8 and routine police reports first described the incident as an accident.

Solicitor B. B. Chamberlain said today the accusation against the mill hand, listed as Tom Webb, was made in a statement signed by a Negro worker and corroborated by three others. Webb was jailed here,

## Tenant Farmer Admits He Dealt Death To Gunter From Behind

Son Pugh, negro tenant on the arm of the late Ralph Gunter, prominent Coffee County planter, who a week or 10 days ago confessed to striking Gunter in the head with an ax, inflicting wounds to which he succumbed on Sept. 13, but claimed he acted in self defense, has changed his confession and now admits he struck Gunter with the ax from behind, according to a social investigator of the State Highway Patrol, who cooperated with local authorities in investigating the case.

Pugh's original version of what occurred prior to the finding of the planter unconscious beside a tractor he had been operating, was that he went to see Gunter about payment of some money he claimed the planter owed him in settlement for a crop; that Gunter became enraged and attacked him with a monkey wrench, striking him on the shoulder; that he fled with Gunter pursuing him, still swinging the wrench and after circling the tractor several times he saw an ax leaning against the machine, picked it up and struck Gunter in the head with it. A monkey wrench and a blood-stained ax were found by officers near the tractor.

After this confession was made, Mr. Lynch continued his inquiry, seeking to harmonize details of Pugh's statement with what evidence he had obtained. Examining the tractor, he said, he found that one of the heavy wheels had slid into a ditch and stuck there and that a quantity of pine brush had been cut nearby, some of which had been forced under the tire of the stuck wheel to provide the necessary traction for getting the machine out of the ditch under its own power. He then recalled, Investigator Lynch said, that Gunter during a brief period of semi-consciousness prior to his death, had said, "something hit me," adding, "Old Son ran off and left me."

Mentally reconstructing the incident that ended fatally for Gunter, the officer said, he reached the conclusion that Pugh had struck the planter from behind and that his "confession's" self-defense angle was untrue. With Circuit Solicitor E. C. Orme and Chief Deputy Sheriff Ben Reaves, of Pike County, he said, he made another trip to Kilby Prison where Pugh is being held for safekeeping, for a second talk with the negro.

In the presence of the solicitor and the chief deputy, Mr. Lynch stated, he told Pugh he knew he was "lying" in his confession about hitting Mr. Gunter in self-defense, and he would show him just what happened and how. "I got down on my hands and knees," the officer said, and said to Pugh, "Mr. Gunter was down in this position pushing pine brush under that stuck wheel of the tractor when you came up behind him with the ax

and hit him in the head." He said Pugh appeared speechless for a moment and then stammered out "white folks, I don't know how you found it out, but dat's what happened. Dat's the way it was. I done tole you de trufe, now."

After the first confession, the officer stated, he had Pugh examined and no trace of a bruise was found on the shoulder where the negro said Gunter hit him with the wrench. In his statement admitting striking the planter from behind, the investigator said, Pugh claimed Gunter would not pay him the amount he asked in the crop settlement, but had called on him to help cut some brush to get the tractor out of the ditch, and at that time while the planter was placing the brush beneath the wheel that he struck the fatal blows.

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sulted in the first of the series of deaths last Thursday. Miss Bryant to Hillman Hospital where she was treated.

Clifton Robertson, 1003 Second Ave., N., died in Hillman Hospital Thursday night, from a stab wound received earlier in the day in a fight at Third Ave. and 17th St., N. Sergeant H. A. Stapp and Officer Walter Williams arrested Clarence Isaac Harrison, 2126 29th Ave., Alousley in connection with the killing. Alousley stated that Robertson refused to pay him the fifteen cents that he owed him. Robertson's death marked the "second cheapest" life of the year. Early in the year a man, lost his life in an argument involving ten cents.

Miss Mary Owen, 23, of 1787 Lower Wheeler St., was shot once in the left shoulder last Saturday morning around 3 A. M., by Madi-son Pond, 24, of 940 N. 18th St. battery. The attack occurred near her temporary home with relatives at 3025 Huntsville Road, in North Birmingham.

gating officers S. D. Penland and R. J. Hilton, Pond went to the Dixie Lumber Co., nearby and asked the watchman to call Jordan Funeral Directors, and later returned to his brother's house at 940 N. 18th St. where the shooting took place. Before officers arrived Pond escaped. Cause of the fatality could not be learned.

The body of a forty-year-old man was found near the railroad tracks of the Southern Railroad at 62nd St., Sunday at 6:30 A. M., by Officers J. T. Moser and R. J. Walters. The man was identified as Mose Bunch, 44, of 306 62nd St. His body was found about one hundred yards from a spot behind a house where his hat was found. Officers expressed a belief that the body was carried to the spot beside the railroad.

He was stabbed with a knife under the shoulder blade. Investigating officers learned that he had left home around 10:30 Saturday night and was last seen at a store nearby. He had worked for Moore and Hanley as truck driver for 20 years. Residents were able to give little information as to the cause of the killing.

Miss Jeane Bryant, 32, 20 No. 41st St. Place, was cut seven times on the face, chest and right arm last Saturday by Miss Hester Perryman, 25, of 24 N. 41st Place. The attack occurred in front of the Perryman home.

According to reports of investigating officers, Bryant and Osborne, Miss Bryant went to the home of Miss Perryman and called her out on the sidewalk. She began cutting when she arrived according to witnesses.

A Smith and Gaston Ambulance

HOMICIDES  
IN B'HAM  
ON RISE

Clifton Robertson  
Reported Killed  
Over Debt

MANY ASSAULTS

With four homicides and a dozen assault cases on record for a four-day period ending Sunday midnight, Birmingham was in high gear for the coming of the Fall season. While there was little chance of reaching the all-time high in homicides of a few years ago when Birmingham was dubbed the homicide capitol of the world, the homicide capitol of the world, that now stands at 81 for the year 25, of 24 N. 41st Place. The attack occurred in front of the Perryman home.

According to reports of investigating officers, Bryant and Osborne, Miss Bryant went to the home of Miss Perryman and called her out on the sidewalk. She began cutting when she arrived according to witnesses.

A Smith and Gaston Ambulance

## Birmingham Slayer Believed Captured

BIRMINGHAM, ALA., Oct. 7.—(AP)—A negro identified as Willie Mitchell Myers, returned here early today from Nashville, was reported by Sheriff's Deputy C. B. Jones to have confessed the slaying of Benjamin Montgomery, high school student and filling station attendant, two weeks ago.

Sheriff's deputies and representatives of the solicitor's office said the confession was made by Myers immediately upon his arrival here at midnight and that robbery was assigned as the motive.

The arrest in Nashville was made on information furnished Tennessee authorities by Sheriff's deputies here. Montgomery was found dead from a bullet wound in the floor of a filling station in suburban Nashville early on the morning of Sept. 21.

Officers said Myers told them he fired at the student just as he turned off the filling station lights for the night. The negro added, officers said, that he suddenly became frightened and fled, without searching for loot. Soon after his arrival in Birmingham, officers reported, Myers accompanied them to the filling station where they said he re-enacted the crime.

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According to reports of investigating officers, Bryant and Osborne, Miss Bryant went to the home of Miss Perryman and called her out on the sidewalk. She began cutting when she arrived according to witnesses.

A Smith and Gaston Ambulance



# NEGRO FREED IN WOODLAWN MURDER CASE

Suspect Blames 'Threats  
By Deputies' For His  
'Confession'

CHARGES NOL-PROSSED

At Work In Nashville When  
Crime Was Committed;

Says Solicitor

Willie Myers, 24-year-old Negro was a free man today, thanks to the circuit solicitor's office, but at least one deputy sheriff still firmly believes Myers is the man who killed Ben Montgomery, Woodlawn youth, on the night of Sept. 20.

Myers was released from County Jail yesterday afternoon after Assistant Solicitor Robert McAdory appeared at the Negro's arraignment in County Court of Misdemeanors and told Judge H. B. Abernethy that in his opinion it would have been impossible for Myers to have committed the crime.

After Judge Abernethy had nol prossed murder charges against Myers, Deputy Sheriff C. B. Jones said that there was no doubt in his mind about Myers being the youth's killer.

**Knew 'Details' Of Crime**  
"He told me things about the crime that only the murderer could have known and which I hadn't discovered myself in my investigation," Deputy Jones said.

Myers, Deputy Jones pointed out, made a complete "confession" of the crime and re-enacted the manner in which he purportedly killed young Montgomery, 19-year-old Woodlawn High School student, at the Woodlawn filling station where the youth worked part-time.

Commenting on charges by the Negro that he "confessed" because deputies who brought him from Nashville to jail here threatened to turn him over to a mob, Deputy Jones said that no threats were made.

**Details 'Threats'**  
"They told me they were going to turn me over to a mob," Myers said, after the case was nol prossed. "They said that a scaffold had al-

ready been built to hang me. They told me they were going to have my tongue cut out."

Deputy Jones asserted that Myers was not harmed in any way, and that he warned the Negro in Nashville that anything he said would be used against him. It was after this warning, the deputy said, that Myers made a "complete confession."

"We pretended that we didn't know where the shooting had taken place," Deputy Jones said. "Myers led us without hesitation to the filling station where Montgomery worked and showed us from which side he shot Montgomery. Myers even went into details of the crime."

Mr. McAdory said records of the National Cafe in Nashville, where Myers worked, showed he was working there on the night of Sept. 20.

Mr. McAdory said he was at a loss to account for the Negro's "confession," but that he was inclined to regard it as the mental workings of "a scared Negro."

The assistant solicitor said that the family of the slain youth, as well as the owner of the filling station, A. V. Reese, were also convinced of the Negro's innocence.

City detectives have never believed that Myers was the man who killed the high school boy. They told deputies on one occasion that they felt sure the deputies "had the wrong Negro."

Deputy Jones blamed jealousy on the part of city officers for their attitude in not believing his theory that Myers was the man who killed Montgomery.

**Outcome Is Surprise**  
Mr. McAdory said that "conclusive proof" had been obtained showing that Myers was working in the Nashville Cafe when the slaying occurred. Myers, Mr. McAdory said, left Birmingham on Sept. 12 and worked in the Tennessee city until Oct. 5, when the deputies went there to bring him to jail here.

The charges were nol prossed on recommendation of Mr. McAdory and Cecil Deason, solicitor in the Court of Misdemeanors. The action came as a complete surprise. Myers was scheduled to appear for a preliminary hearing when the assistant solicitor made the announcement. Judge Abernethy immediately nol prossed the case.

Mr. McAdory said he took no stock in rumors that friction between the sheriff's office and the Police Department played any part in the case.

Dothan, Ala. Eagle  
October 21, 1937

**HOW COME?**

A young Birmingham station attendant was shot to death the other night and a twenty-four-year-old Negro was arrested and, according to officers, "confessed" the murder. But a check-up on

the Negro's original story that he was not in Birmingham on the night of the slaying has proved correct, and he has been released.

A lot of people, along with The Age-Herald are wondering:

Why did this Negro prisoner tell the officers he killed the Woodlawn boy? What happened to him to cause him to give the false confession? Did he tell officers when he was first arrested that he was in Nashville on the night of the slaying? If he did, did the officers investigate his story?

The public is not familiar with the inside work of crime detection. The people cannot understand happenings like this. They would like to know something about this case, especially about the "confession."

The Eagle doesn't know whether a rubber hose was used in obtaining this "confession," but it does know that the rubber hose has been used by some cops.

However, it is reasonable to assume that the prisoner "confessed" because he had either been beaten or had been threatened with a beating.

Maybe the Birmingham cops will elucidate—and then again maybe they won't.

## ALABAMA IS THIRD IN HOMICIDE RATE

Sharp Increase Is Noted In  
Killings Last Year

By United Press.  
MONTGOMERY, Oct. 20.—Alabama's homicide rate was the third highest in the nation last year, according to the State Department of Health.

Alabama's figure of 23 per 100,000 population was exceeded only by Mississippi and Florida.

Homicides in the state last year totaled 654, as compared with 623 during the previous year. Of the 1936 total, 185 homicides were white persons and 469 were Negroes. The white homicide rate for last year was 10.1 per 100,000 population and the Negro rate was 46.4 per 100,000 population.

The 1937 figures, the department said, show that the South still exceeds all other sections of the country in homicides since Florida, Georgia, Tennessee, Alabama, Mississippi and Louisiana occupied the first six places in the table based upon homicide rates for last year.

Alabama's 1936 homicide rate was higher than that for any year covered by records with the exception of 1933 and 1934.

# NEGRO KILLED BY DEPUTY AS HE OPENS FIRE

Third White Man Wounded  
In Wave Of Violence  
Early Today

TWO HELD IN TRAGEDY,  
Sons Of Ironaton Victim  
Are Detained After  
Fatal Blasts

Two white men and a Negro were dead and a third white man was recovering from gunshot wounds today as a result of violence in Homewood and Ironaton, 70 miles east of here, late yesterday.

The dead were:  
Griff Lackey, 57, farmer, Ironaton.  
Cecil Mann, 31, farmer, Ironaton.  
Sylvester Blue, Negro, Rocky Ridge-rd, south of Birmingham.

Lackey and Mann were shot to death in what officers said was a drunken brawl in Lackey's front yard in Screech Owl Hollow, in the mountains a mile northeast of Ironaton.

**Homewood Man Shot**  
Blue was shot to death by Deputy Sheriff Sam Arnett when the Negro opened fire on the deputy and other officers who went to the Rocky Ridge-rd to investigate complaints that a Negro had attempted to molest several white men.

Coroner Gip M. Evans returned a verdict of justifiable homicide, exonerating Deputy Arnett.

Deputies Pap Dinken and H. C. Peveler were with Deputy Arnett. Deputy DeWitt Truss said the Negro was the same man deputies questioned two years ago in connection with complaints that a Negro had molested white women on the Rocky Ridge-rd. The man was not identified, however, and was released, Deputy Truss added.

**Faces Murder Charge**  
Ernest A. Hammett, 30, of 1919 Oxmoor-rd, Homewood, an employee of the Birmingham Gas Co., was wounded with birdshot when a Negro fired on him with a shotgun on Lynn-blvd, near Homewood. Sheriff Sam Burns of Talladega

County, said he would swear out a warrant today for first degree murder against Cecil Lackey, 30-year-old son of Griff Lackey, in connection with the slaying of Cecil Mann.

Cecil Lackey and his brother, Alfred Lackey, 28, were held in Talladega County Jail pending further investigation, the sheriff said.

**10 Shots Fired**  
Sheriff Burns said that a preliminary investigation indicated that Cecil Mann and Griff Lackey shot each other, but that Cecil Lackey also shot Cecil Mann.

George Roberson, 33, also of Ironaton, was questioned about the shooting, but was not held.

Sheriff Burns said that the two men who were slain, together with Cecil and Alfred Lackey, were in an altercation at Lackey's home when the shooting occurred. Ten empty shotgun shells were found in the yard, he said.

Several shots struck the house, in which Mrs. Lackey and several children sheltered themselves from the wild gunfire, the sheriff said. Lackey's body was found by Sheriff Burns, Chief Deputy John L. Green and Deputy H. A. Churchill, in the doorway of the house. Mann's body was lying on the floor inside the house.

Sheriff Burns said that Lackey and Mann had been friends for several years. The cause of the altercation was not explained.

**Victim Dismissed**  
George Rice, Homewood Negro was arrested by Homewood Officer Raymond Fox, R. R. Chambers and G. L. Scott and Deputy W. D. Newsome and held in Homewood Jail for questioning in connection with the shooting of Mr. Hammett.

Mr. Hammett was treated at Hillman Hospital for gunshot wounds in the head and shoulder, then discharged from the hospital. He was able to be up today.

Mr. Hammett said a Negro called to him to stop as he turned into Lynn-blvd from the Montgomery Highway. He said he thought it was someone he knew.

Mr. Hammett said he looked through the back window of his coupe and the Negro opened fire. Bleeding from the wounds, he drove into Homewood and notified police.

Bloodhounds were taken to Homewood from the convict camp to aid in the search, but Rice was arrested near the scene of the shooting by officers without the aid of the dogs.

Homewood officers said Rice would be questioned again today about the shooting.



Killings-1937

Arkansas.

# 7 POLICE ARE INDICTED IN ARKANSAS KILLING OF CITY JAIL PRISONER

## Second Degree Murder Charges Are Returned by Grand Jury.

HOT SPRINGS, Ark., Jan. 6.—(P)

A Garland county grand jury, condemning strongly "so-called third-degree methods," indicted seven persons late today on second-degree murder charges as the climax of an investigation into the death of John Dickson, 32, city jail prisoner.

County officers arrested early tonight six of those indicted, three of whom were city police suspended by Mayor Leo P. McLaughlin pending outcome of the inquiry. Authorities said they expected to make the seventh arrest late tonight.

Those arrested were Captain Ben Moore, Patrolmen Joe Scott and Pat Griffin, Captain Arch Cooper, Detective Glenn Buchanan, Lieutenant Cecil Brock, all Hot Springs policemen. The latter were the three under suspension. Each was released on \$1,500 bond.

A blanket indictment accused the seven of "wilfully and with malice aforethought assaulting and murdering" Dickson by "striking, kicking and beating him on the back and other parts of the body with a blunt instrument."

Mayor McLaughlin said in a statement commenting upon the jury's action that "it is doubtful whether or not Joe Wakelin will again serve as chief of police." Wakelin was the fourth officer suspended temporarily by McLaughlin.

"I desire to state that the seven officers who have been indicted are permanently discharged and will not again be connected with the city administration," said McLaughlin.

Dickson died Christmas Eve in a hospital from what his death certificate said was pneumonia. Subsequently his father, James Dickson, charged his son died of mistreatment while in custody and asked a full investigation. He retained an attorney.

## NEGRO, 35, ACQUITTED OF MURDER CHARGE

TEXARKANA, Ark., March 10.—(P)—A Miller county circuit court jury today acquitted Butch Moorehead, 35-year-old negro elevator operator, of a murder charge in connection with the fatal shooting last November of Brice Williams, 55, Texarkana banker, in a downtown bank building.

The jury returned the verdict after deliberating all night.

Moorehead, pleading self-defense, took the stand yesterday to testify the banker was shot accidentally with his own pistol as he and the elevator operator scuffled in a hallway. The negro also was shot and wounded during the scuffle.

The state had asked the death penalty for Moorehead, charging he killed Williams after a dispute over a rent collection.

## Porter Who Killed White Banker Freed

TEXARKANA, Ark., Mar. 19—(Special)—Butch Moorehead, 35

years of age, a porter in a department store here, who killed Brice Williams, 55 year old prominent white banker last November was freed here Wednesday when a jury in Judge Dexter B. Smith's court room exonerated him of all blame in the slaying.

Moorehead thanked the jury and his attorney and left for home locked arms with his wife. His attorney had contended that Moorehead killed the white man in self defense.

## Negroes Are Saved By High Court Rulings

It is a time-honored rule of the law that a person cannot be convicted of a crime upon the unsupported testimony of an accomplice. This rule, still the law in Arkansas, was cited Monday by the Arkansas Supreme Court in reversing the death sentence of I. V. Jackson, Texarkana negro, for the murder of Bill Adcock, a white man. Admitting the shooting, but pleading self-defense, the negro was convicted largely upon the testimony of a negro woman, present at the time, but who, while denying that she had anything to do with it, testified against Jackson.

Ruled the high court, "the trial judge erred in not giving the jury the law governing the testimony of an accomplice and the necessity for its corroboration."

Not so technical was the Supreme Court in neighboring Mississippi, which on the same day not only reversed the death sentence of Milton Jarman, a negro tenant in Sunflower County, for the murder of H. E. Woodruff, his landlord; but

the court went further and directed that the negro be set free.

Basis of the decision, that Woodruff had gone to the negro's house to protest his removal from the Woodruff plantation, had attacked him with a pistol, a poker. Finally escaping from the house, the negro picked up a shotgun, shot Woodruff dead when Woodruff attempted to follow him. Pointing out that the state offered no direct testimony to refute the negro's story, the high court held that the jury would have been warranted in believing the negro, added, "the court below should have granted his request for a directed verdict."

## Innocence To The End

*Comment*  
10-9-37  
Sandy Edwards, 63-Year-Old  
Arkansas Man, Says Jury  
Made Mistake—"I'm  
Innocent"—Are  
Last Words

*Butch*  
PINE BLUFF, Ark., Oct.

7. (Special).—Maintaining to the last his innocence of the crime for which a jury found him guilty and prescribed the death penalty, Sandy Edwards, 63 years old, was executed last Wednesday, at Tucker Prison Farm. His last words were: "I am innocent."

Nearly two years elapsed between the commission of the crime and Edwards' execution. The murder of which he was convicted was the axe-slaying of a white farmer Cross Lamb, who resided in Howard county, which occurred on Oct. 26.

According to officers, Edwards went to Louisiana, assumed the name of Arthur Porter, and lived there for a year before returning to Pine Bluff where he was arrested last July. At his trial, he pleaded not guilty. Authorities were never able to establish a motive for the killing.



Killings - 1937

California

# Negro Hunted In Double Slaying Prints On Window Sill To Be Traced By Police

LOS ANGELES, April 5. (P)—  
Blood-stained fingerprints on a win-  
dow sill and two clay models of size  
11 shoeless footprints were the only  
clues tonight in the search for the  
sex-crazed slayer of Mrs. Edna A.  
Worden and her 12-year-old daugh-  
ter, Marguerite.

Detectives, expressing belief a huge  
negro used a brickbat to crush the  
skulls of his sleeping victims in their  
apartment early Sunday morning,  
were checking files on all persons ar-  
rested in recent years on morals of-  
fenses. The officers said they be-  
lieved the killer is the same who  
has slain three women and severely  
beaten five others in Los Angeles in  
recent months. In each case the  
women were felled by brickbats.

Plaster casts made of foot depres-  
sions on the earth near Mrs. Worden's  
apartment showed bits of wool,  
pulled from the sock on the foot that  
made the prints. Police said this es-  
tablished the slayer removed his shoes  
before he climbed through a kitchen  
window.

Capt. H. J. Wallis of the police  
homicide squad, said the Worden  
murders are the first in the series of  
similar crimes in which fingerprints  
have been obtained.

Of the fiend's 10 victims, only two  
have seen their attacker, the latest  
being Mrs. H. W. Kolls. On Jan. 25  
startled from sleep in a hospital room  
she saw a huge negro, arm upraised  
over her bed. She screamed and the  
man fled, leaving behind a brick bat.



Killings-1937

# 50 Killings Put at Door Of Police

## Interracial Committee Protests Refusal To Punish Officers

By FREDERICK S. WEAVER

Moving to bring an immediate halt to police brutality in the District, an interracial committee of prominent citizens representing some 30 national and local organizations laid their cards on the desks of the District commissioners at a conference in the office of Commissioner Melvin C. Hazen, president of the board, Tuesday morning.

The committee, headed by Dr. Charles Edward Russell, veteran liberal, cited to the commissioners the names of 50 persons, ranging in ages from 16 to 55, who have been shot to death by Washington police within the past ten years. Forty of the fifty names presented were colored.

### Lone Exception Colored

In addition, the committee cited numerous cases of brutal beatings by police, invasion of homes of colored people without warrants. They cited the case of an officer who, it was alleged, criminally assaulted the wife of a colored man. All of these officers, in all of the cases except one, are still on the force.

The one exception was a colored officer, L. L. Jackson, who, when attached to the Fourth Precinct, shot James Davis. Jackson was dismissed, the committee argued, because he was colored. All of the other killings have been turned over to Major Brown, and Major Brown has endeared himself to me by the manner in which he has properly investigated these cases," Beasley said.

### Regulation Cited

Citing the regulation concerning the use of firearms by police, the committee pointed out that it is unlawful for an officer to use his gun except in causes where the

officer's life is placed in real jeopardy by one whom he seeks to arrest, or where the offender is reasonably believed to have committed a grave offense, such as murder or a grave assault, constituting high crime.

The most rank case of wanton "murder" was that of Lawrence Basey, 27, who was killed on August 31, 1936, by Officer V. H. Landrum, of the Ninth Precinct, according to the committee.

Basey, a CCC enrollee, was shot by Landrum when he attempted to arrest Basey and five other CCC enrollees, companions of Basey.

### Basey Case Told

According to Landrum's testimony at the coroner's inquest, he was motivated into shooting Basey by a picture that flashed through his mind of the death of Officer Kennedy at Logan Circle. The committee advised the commissioners that the coroner's jury found that Landrum shot Basey not as a result of any overt act on Basey's part, but because of a mental process that his life was in danger.

Efforts to have the case prosecuted failed when Leslie C. Garrett, district attorney, announced that there was not sufficient grounds to prosecute the case, the committee told the commissioners.

### Heads Blamed

Blame for police brutality here was placed on the heads of the District commissioners and Major Ernest W. Brown, superintendent of police, by others who spoke after Dr. Russell and Harlan Glazier, who read the committee report.

Following the report, Commissioner Hazen called on George W. Beasley, former president of the Federation of Civic Associations, for a "word."

Beasley completely exonerated Major Brown of any blame for police brutality, with the explanation that Major Brown had always properly investigated cases that he had submitted to him.

### Says He Loves the Major

"Every complaint that has come to me concerning police brutality has been turned over to Major Brown, and Major Brown has endeared himself to me by the manner in which he has properly investigated these cases," Beasley said.

"Have these investigations satisfied you?" Hazen asked. "Yes, they have. In one instance an officer was fined \$50; in another an officer was not recommended for promotion," Beasley answered.

"Do you think that there is any prejudice toward colored people on the part of our police?" Hazen asked Beasley.

### Finds Officers Courteous

"I don't think that the officers always use the proper discretion, but I don't think it can be said that they are prejudiced. For the most part, I have found the officers very courteous," was the answer.

When Beasley had finished his presentation, Dr. Russell, irked by the tenor of his remarks, queried: "What organization do you represent?"

"I don't represent the federation, but I am representing the Northwest Central Citizens' Association."

### Hits "Hat-in-Hand" Stand

"Did you attend the last meeting of this committee when these shootings were discussed?" asked Dr. Russell.

"No," was the reply. "And you were not invited to come here, were you?"

Before Beasley could answer, Hazen interrupted to say that Beasley could come to his office whenever he got ready.

Beasley had told the commissioners that he was not aware of all the shootings by police as related by the committee, but that he knew about some of the smaller cases.

### Hints at W'itewash

Replying to that, the Rev. R. W. Brooks, representing the Interdenominational Ministers' Alliance, said he could understand why Beasley would not know of all the cases, in that he represented such a small part of the Negro population here.

Edward P. Lovett, of the NAACP legal staff, warned the commissioners that Beasley's statements had not whitewashed the police department and that the citizens here would find some way to bring a halt to police brutality.

### Commissioners Dodge

On behalf of the National Negro Congress, John D. Davis, its executive secretary, warned that a race riot might occur unless the brutality on the part of police was halted. He read a resolution adopted by the NYA conference held here recently, to indicate that police brutality here was of national significance. The resolution called on Congress to conduct

an investigation of each of the 40 cases where Negroes were killed.

An effort on the part of the committee to pin the commissioners down on what they would do about it exacted the statement that it would be taken under consideration.

## MEASURE WOULD GIVE POWER TO NIP HOMICIDES

### Resolution Offered By California Democrat

WASHINGTON, D. C., Feb. 5.—A resolution offered in the House on January 19 would authorize and direct an investigation of brutality and homicides committed by police officers in the District of Columbia.

The resolution was offered by Representative Byron N. Scott, Democrat, of California.

Under its terms, the District of Columbia committee or a subcommittee would be empowered to conduct "an investigation to determine whether and to what extent the use of unnecessary and unlawful force and violence by police officers and unlawful killing of persons by police officers have become a menace to life, liberty, and the general security within the District of Columbia."

The committee would be required to report either to the House or the clerk of the House if the House is not in session, as soon as practicable, the results of its investigation, together with such recommendations for legislation as it deems advisable.

### Police Brutality

Another police killing occurred last week in the nation's capital: the fifty-second altogether, the forty-first in regard to Negroes.

Another shooting of a young man Embrey, the officer in the case, the young man was about to shoot him. He claims he acted in defense of his life.

According to Policeman Albert L. Embrey, who has been under fire of colored citizens before, the young man was about to shoot him. He acted in defense of his life.

But no one witnessed the tragedy except Embrey. He exhibited a revolver said to have been found on the body of the slain man. But no one had found it except Embrey. After chasing the man a short distance, he was said to have turned fire upon the officer. But only Embrey saw this.

For stripping cars a man lost his life.

Colored citizens of the District have lost their lives at the hands of white officers for less offenses than this. In fact, in one instance, a needy old man was killed by an officer of the law when he was suspected of picking up a few lumps of coal.

The fight must go on. All liberal-minded groups that have interested themselves in Washington's police brutalities are expected to carry their battle to Congress and perhaps to the President of the United States.

While we are about it, some effort should be made to get the LaFollette Senate Committee on Civil Liberties violations to put the District's police brutality investigation on its agenda. We feel that his committee, which has done such commendable work in exposing the civil liberties violations of laborers, would not be averse to this matter.

## Killer-Cop Cleared of Shooting

### Officer Who Slew Autoist In Wild Ride Absolved By Coroner's Jury

Exoneration of Earl L. McNale, white policeman attached to the Third Precinct, followed a coroner's inquiry into the fatal shooting, early last week, of Walter J. Templeton, 21, 1713 T Street, Northwest.

The inquest was held Friday at the District morgue Deputy Coroner C. J. Murphy presiding.



A jury of six men, five white and one colored, decreed that the officer shot Templeton while acting in the line of duty. Testimony of witnesses showed that the victim, while allegedly operating a stolen automobile, maliciously endangered the lives of the patrolman and pedestrians. The bullet fired by Private McNale brought to an end a wild, reckness ride through the streets of Northwest Washington.

#### Seen at 'Stop-Sign'

According to testimony, McNale and Officer Henry S. Montgomery, white, also of the Third Precinct, encountered Templeton as the latter halted at a "stop-sign" at the corner of Twenty-second and N Streets, Northwest.

Recognizing the car in which he was riding as a stolen machine for which a lookout had been broadcast, for both the theft and hit-and-run activities, Patrolman McNale left the police auto and accosted Templeton. The latter, upon seeing the officer, attempted to escape, according to the evidence.

McNale mounted the running board of Templeton's vehicle and ordered the driver to stop. Templeton ver badly refused, and in an effort to dislodge his apprehender from the side of the car, raced to one side of the street and then to the other. He purposely, according to the story, brushed against several parked cars, seeking to knock McNale from the running-board.

Front of 2101 N Street, Northwest, McNale stated, he shot the reckless fugitive in the left side of the head. The car came to an abrupt stop.

Templeton was taken to Georgetown Hospital, where Dr. J. H. Carpenter, white, pronounced him dead five minutes after arrival.

Dr. William J. Howard, 1728 T Street, Northwest, appeared as one of the witnesses against Templeton. He declared that the man had collided with him at the intersection of Eighteenth and S Streets, Northwest, and had refused to stop. A chase, he said, carried him West on S Street, South on Connecticut Avenue and into P Street, where he lost the pursued.

Sergeant W. J. Liverman, white, of the headquarters homicide squad, produced photographs of automobiles which were struck during Templeton's wild ride with McNale. A picture of a badly battered machine was submitted as that of the stolen automobile which the deceased drove.



Killings-1937

Florida

# Woman And MATE DIES IN FIRE

## Husband Are Found Slain

Florida Matron Suspect With Negroes In Double Slaying

FORT PIERCE, FLA., Feb. 10.—(AP)

Sheriff B. A. Brown said the body of Mrs. S. L. Williams was found in the hall of her home today and a coroner's jury investigating her death found the body of her husband burned to death in the kitchen.

The sheriff said a white woman listed as Mrs. Ruby Willis Simms and two negro men were being held for investigation. He said the only connection they had in the case so far as known was possession of Williams's automobile and the fact that one of the men was the last to see the couple alive.

Brown said the Williams were "very prominent" in this section.

Mrs. Alto Adams, of Fort Pierce, daughter of the couple and wife of an attorney prominent in State circles, discovered her mother's body when she went to visit her.

Sheriff Brown said Mrs. Adams found her mother dead of two blasts from a shotgun. The body was lying in the hall and the gun, with two empty shells, was leaning against the wall in the kitchen.

Mrs. Adams phoned for a doctor, the sheriff said, and the physician called him. The sheriff said a coroner's jury was impaneled.

During this time, said Brown, a small building behind the big Williams residence was ablaze but little attention was paid to it. Later the coroner's jury went to the building, then a smouldering ruin, and discovered the man's body in it.

Sheriff Brown said Williams earlier had told a negro to drive his automobile to Ruby Simms. After the two bodies were discovered, he said, the Simms woman and one of the negroes were seen driving in the car and were placed under arrest.

The other negro, the last to see Williams alive, was picked up later. Brown said they all told similar stories.

## SHOTGUN BLASTS FATAL TO WOMAN;

Daughter Finds Bodies of Kin to Governor Cone's Advisor; White Woman and Man, 4 Negroes Are Held at Fort Pierce

## GROUP IS ARRESTED DURING AUTO RIDE

## Husband Is Said To Have Sent His Car to Female Suspect Just Before Tragedy Occurred

FORT PIERCE, FLA., Feb. 10.—

(AP)—Mrs. S. L. Williams was killed by two blasts from a shotgun here today and a coroner's jury investigating the tragedy found her husband burned to death in servants' quarters behind the home.

Williams was a prominent farmer and father-in-law of an adviser to Governor Cone.

Sheriff B. A. Brown said he was holding six persons for investigation. He listed them as Mrs. Ruby Willis Simms; her father, J. W. Willis, and four negroes. No charges were placed against them, he said.

The coroner's jury adjourned its hearing until tomorrow without reaching a conclusion.

Sheriff Brown said Willis and his daughter, Mrs. Simms, worked for Williams at various times. Williams told one of the negroes to take his automobile to Mrs. Simms today, he said, and the woman and a negro farm hand were arrested after the slaying when found riding in the machine.

## Visited Home.

The other negroes and Willis were held because they visited the home prior to the double killing, the sheriff asserted.

Mrs. Alto Adam, of Fort Pierce, daughter of the couple and wife of an attorney prominent in state circles, discovered her mother's body.

## Mother Killed by Gun.

Sheriff Brown said Mrs. Adams drove to the home where she found her mother dead of two blasts from

a shotgun. The body was lying in the groes lived. He named them as Arthur Whitaker and Garfield Davis. As the officer opened the door, the sheriff stated, gunfire blazed. Williams returned the fire before he fell dead.

Mrs. Adams phoned for a doctor, the sheriff said, and the physician called him. The sheriff said a coroner's jury was impaneled.

During this time, said Brown, a small building behind the big Williams residence was ablaze but little attention was paid to it because of the tragedy in the house. The coroner's jury went to the building, then smouldering ruins, and discovered the man's body in it.

## Trio Found Driving.

Sheriff Brown said Williams earlier had told a negro to drive his automobile to Ruby Simms. After the two bodies were discovered, he said, the Simms woman and one of the negroes were seen driving in the car and were placed under arrest.

The other negro, the last to see Williams alive, was picked up later. Brown said they all told similar stories.

Alto Adams is an adviser to Governor Fred P. Cone, it was said. Brown said investigation of the deaths is continuing.

## BROTHER-IN-LAW SURRENDERS IN SLAYING

BUSHNELL, Fla., Feb. 10.—(AP) Roy Knight, about 50, a farmer living in the Wahoo section of Sumter county, was shot and killed last night near the home of his brother-in-law, Earl Hanson, 35.

Soon after, Sheriff W. T. Coleman reported that Hanson came to the county seat here and gave himself up. He is held in jail. A coroner's jury was empaneled today but adjourned until Saturday morning. Sheriff Coleman said a charge of murder would be placed against Hanson.

The sheriff quoted Hanson as saying that he shot Knight thinking he was a prowler near his home, and did not know who it was until after Knight had died.

Coleman said that Hanson declared he saw a man on his porch, ordered him to put up his hands, and when he turned Hanson was quoted as saying he shot once, and then shot again after the intruder fell.

Knight is survived by his widow and several children. He was employed as a range rider on the Withlacoochee resettlement project.

## Officer, Negro Killed In Florida Gun Duel

WHITE SPRINGS, Fla., March 7.—(AP)—Sheriff A. F. Hancock reported Hezekiah Williams, town policeman, and a negro, Wash Everett, were shot to death in a pistol battle today as the officer raided a gambling game.

Four negroes are held in jail. One of them, listed as Ed Griffin, was said by the sheriff to have two bullet wounds in his body.

Sheriff Brown said Mrs. Adams complained of the gambling and Williams was sent to the home where two ne-

Tampa, Fla. Tribune  
May 20, 1937

## RACE PREJUDICE IS CHARGED IN MURDER VERDICT

## Negro's Attorneys Ask New Trial

The circuit court jury which convicted Edward Hodgins, negro plasterer of the murder of William L. Wolfe last week must have been influenced by race prejudice, Hodgins' attorneys alleged in a motion for a new trial yesterday.

Judge Sandler has not set a date for hearing the motion. If it is denied, Hodgins will be sentenced to life imprisonment.

The motion filed by Paul Lake and John R. Parkhill as defense counsel set up a score of grounds, chief of which was that of prejudice by the jury.

"The jury must have been prejudiced against the defendant because he is a negro and charged with killing a white man by striking him on the back of the head with a hammer and crushing his skull," the motion alleged.

## Outside Influence Charged.

Jurors, defense counsel also charged, must have been "actuated by some outside influence" and "failed to give the defendant the benefit of the reasonable doubt arising from the evidence."

Among other grounds for a new trial, the motion alleged Judge Sandler erred in admitting certain testimony, including that of a federal chemist that there were blood stains on Hodgins' overalls.

The judge also erred, it was alleged, "in various and sundry remarks throughout the trial." The remarks were not recited.

Wolfe, a rent and loan collector, was killed and robbed the night of Jan. 16 in the North Oregon avenue negro section. Hodgins and Lucius Rodgers, negro handyman, were charged jointly with the murder. Rodgers, not yet tried, was the state's chief witness against Hodgins. A jury failed to agree at Hodgins' first trial.

## NEGRO KILLS ESCORT AND COMPELS GIRL TO PILFER HIS BODY

## Two Florida Counties Hunt Would-Be Attacker of Wounded 'Date.'

JACKSONVILLE, Fla., June 14 (AP)—Sheriffs of two counties pressed a search tonight for the negro who killed a motorist and forced a young woman to remove the dead man's wallet.

The bullet which killed the man, George Henry Stokes, 27, also wounded Miss Lorain Bowman, 16. Both live in Callahan, Fla.

At the office of Sheriff Rex Sweat, here, it was announced the slayer jumped on the running board of the machine last night as it slowed down to make a curve.

The girl told officers the negro fired one shot. The bullet passed through Stokes' head and struck Miss Bowman in the temple. Her wound was superficial.

Miss Bowman said the negro forced her at gun's point to drag Stokes' body from the car and search it for his wallet. The assailant then sought to attack her but she ran into a swamp.

Fleeing for a mile, she lost her shoes. Emerging from the swamp barefooted, she told her story at a house and collapsed. Later she was taken to a Jacksonville hospital where the bullet was removed.

Bloodhounds were set on the negro's trail.

## Florida Electric Chair Claims Convicted Negro

RAIFORD, FLA., July 23.—(AP)—Robert Hinds, Appalachian negro convicted of criminal assaulting a white woman, died in Florida's electric chair at the State Prison here today.

About 80 witnesses were present, many of them from the Appalachian section where an attempt was made to lynch the negro after his arrest.



# Fight "Justifiable Homicide" Verdict In Murder Of Sunday School Teacher, 16

**Crowded Courtroom Stunned as 'Special Officer' Is Virtually Freed in Another Florida Killing—New Prosecution Steps Planned.**

JACKSONVILLE, Fla., Aug. 5—(ANP)—In a decision that left the crowded courtroom gasping, a Justice's Court here last week classed as "justifiable homicide" the wanton slaying of Fred O'Neill, 16-year-old Negro Sunday school teacher, by a white golf course attendant last Sunday. Parents of the dead lad and indignant heads of Negro and white organizations planned immediate steps for prosecution of the white slayer.

O'Neill, with several young playmates, had been swimming in an alligator-infested hole that serves Jacksonville as a swimming pool. Returning, the lads—the oldest of them was the dead boy—accidentally crossed a strip of the city-owned white golf course. C. L. Robinson, so-called "special officer," whom many persons say prides himself on his quick trigger, stopped the boys and ordered them off the course.

Young O'Neill asked permission to wait for his brother, and was abused, witnesses state, by the apparently intoxicated Robinson. Robinson drew a high-powered revolver and ordered the youngster into his car. Obeying, O'Neill was driven to the home of his killer and there slain. Bruises on his face testified to a torture session before a bullet in the hands of the killer finally ended his agony.

Following the usual custom here, Robinson was immediately released "on his own recognizance." At the inquest later, police officers gave wavering testimony concerning an alleged "scuffed-up" area that ostensibly implied a tussle between the frail boy and his burly killer before the death bullet was fired. Robinson, testifying in his own behalf, claimed that the boy had attempted to hit him with a brick, wrest his gun from him, and several other violent acts which were not supported in the other testimony.

Following the virtual acquittal of the jury, steps were begun to obtain a regular trial for the killer and some measure of justice for his parents and survivors.

## MANHUNT SHIFTS TO NEGRO SECTION

**'Shoot To Kill,' Seekers Of  
Slayer Are Ordered**

By United Press.  
WEST PALM BEACH, Fla., Aug. 9.—Police Chief Robert Milburn today issued "shoot-to-kill" orders to officers searching the Negro section for Will Akrey, 35-year-old ex-convict who killed a policeman.

The search, which has been in progress since Saturday afternoon when Akrey shot down Patrolman Louis A. Conner as he attempted to arrest him, shifted to the Negro section after an exhaustive hunt through the saw-grass wilds.

More than 250 peace officers and civilians, using bloodhounds and airplanes, searched the area around West Palm Beach yesterday. Miles of brush-land were fired to "smoke Akrey out" in the belief that he was hiding there.

## BADLY MUTILATED, EX-GEORGIAN'S BODY FOUND NEAR LAKE

**Torture Slaying Suggested  
After Grisly Discovery  
Near Lakeland, Fla.**

LAKELAND, Fla., Oct. 8.—(P)—The terribly mutilated body of handsome, 200-pound Douglas Beane, 49, was found today in a wooded area near Lake De Leon, a spot known as a "lovers' lane" in Lakeland.

He had been shot a number of times with a small-gauge shotgun, stabbed an undetermined number of times and apparently tortured. His trousers were removed, his body mutilated, and his wrists were tied together.

Assistant State Attorney Rogers said it was his opinion that a band of men had committed a torture slaying.

A short distance from the body was Beane's automobile. There was no evidence of a struggle, and apparently the man had been killed elsewhere and the body brought there, Rogers said.

On the floor of the car was a chocolate bar and a package of cigarettes. The state attorney said Beane did not smoke. The package was taken to headquarters to be examined for fingerprints.

Beane, who came to Florida from Savannah, Ga., a number of years ago, was an electrician employed by the Atlantic Coast Line railroad here. He reported for work yesterday morning, and asked his superior, John B. Hannah, for the day off so he could attend to some business.

Hannah said today work was slack and he granted the man's request. Beane did not return home last night nor did he report for work this morning.

## NEGRO SUSPECT SLAIN BY FLORIDA OFFICERS

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla., Oct. 17. (P)—J. O. (Honeyboy) Moses, negro, caught in connection with the slaying of two policemen here yesterday, was shot and critically wounded by police officers tonight, according to Chief of Police Vaughn.

The negro was suspected of the ambush slaying at a circus last night of Patrolmen Thornton and William G. Newberry.

Lakeland, Fla., Ledger & Star Tele December 31, 1937

## Civil Liberties Report Revives Miami Charges

Miami, Dec. 31.—(P)—An American Civil Liberties union representative recommended today that civil suits be prosecuted against the three policemen involved in the killing of Stafford Dames, negro altar boy, and that demand be made for the replacement of Police Chief H. Leslie Quigg.

The investigator, Frank McCallister of St. Petersburg, said in a report to the union and to the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People that various repressive acts against negroes here had contributed to "a racial tension which is unparalleled" and that "if conditions grow worse between the races a social explosion is likely to occur."

Dames was shot in front of his home last July 27 by three policemen chasing a thief who had broken into a church. The policemen were exonerated by the coroner's jury and later by the grand jury.



Killings - 1937

Augusta, Ga. Herald  
April 16, 1937

## HOMICIDAL MANIA SHOULD BE DEALT WITH STERNLY

THOSE who closely follow the proceedings of our courts are aware of the fact that the vast majority of the murder cases in this county involve Negroes. And few of them ever pay the supreme penalty.

A few years ago we heard Judge Henry C. Hammond deliver a lecture from the bench that was directed at the court gallery.

"You colored people regard human life too lightly," we recall him saying. "Life is sweet. You cannot continue to kill one another with such reckless abandon without tending to destroy the usefulness of your race to society."

Our thoughts today are prompted by an editorial in the Charlotte, (N. C.) News. Said the Charlotte paper: "A Negro woman in Lumberton is in jail accused of having doused her husband with kerosene and set him afire. And, oh, yes; an eyewitness says she also smothered his head with a blanket to muffle his outcries while he burned. He died."

The News went on to say that it is seldom that a Negro is convicted of the first degree murder of another Negro; that there is a sort of unwritten rule that when both the accused and the corpse are colored, a second degree verdict is as much as the state will exact to square the account.

The attitude that prevails in North Carolina is, we fear, much the same attitude that is to be found in our Georgia courts, including those of our own county. In fact, it seems to be the attitude of many of our leading citizens.

Judge Hammond was right in saying that those of the colored race regard human life too lightly.

We are not being fair to the Negroes, nor to ourselves, if we fail to take a more vigorous stand in murder cases involving their race. When a Negro kills a white man he generally gets the limit of the law. But he may kill another Negro and escape with life, or a much less sentence. This, it occurs to us, may be responsible for the long list of murders among the colored people that dot our court records.

The Herald is confident that the better colored citizens of our community recognize this condition and that they would welcome a more vigorous stand by the courts in blotting out this unfortunate record.

October 21, 1937

### Murder In The South

IT'S sorry news that the Alabama homicide rate for 1936 was 23 per 100,000 population, although we are privileged to salvage what solace we may out of the knowledge that at least two states, our neighboring Mississippi and Florida, were even worse off than we. Equally discouraging is the revelation that the 1936 figure is the highest for this state except for 1933 and 1934.

General

During 1936, there were 654 homicides in this state as compared with 623 in 1935, according to the report by the Bureau of Vital Statistics of the State Health Department—although we cannot imagine how murder figures managed to ingratiate themselves with a health department. Of the 1936 total, 185 homicides were of white persons and 469 were of negroes—leaving the white race for last year at 10.1 per 100,000 and the negro rate at 46.4. This indicates that those of a darker hue are more than four times as proficient as their Caucasian brethren in the use of the knife, the gun or the belaying pin.

In view of these figures from Alabama, Florida and Mississippi, it is hardly necessary to add that the South still outranks all other sections of the country in homicides—this being particularly true of Tennessee, Georgia and Louisiana as well as the aforementioned trio. These six states occupied the first places in a table based upon homicide rates for last year, although we have a suspicion that Tennessee, with its heavy white population in the East, would not have had the distinction of being listed were not Memphis, with its abundance of negroes and violent deaths, included in the figures.

Even so, we cannot excuse this condition by the simple explanation that the homicide rate among negroes causes the figures to run up, and that without the negro we might have a record as clean as that of bloody Chicago or hell-roaring New York. If we mistake not, the laws against murder—both the laws of God and man—were designed without regard to color, and there is no reason why they should not be enforced with the same diligence. We need not be told, either, that they are being enforced with equal vigor for both races. We have seen too many cases where murders which involved negroes alone have been lightly dismissed by police and the prosecutors, while murder cases involving whites alone or both negroes and whites have been pushed to the full extent of the law. When the law is properly enforced, the negro has a respect for it equal to that of his white neighbor—and that goes for murder as well as for gambling on Sunday.

Citronelle, Ala., Call  
November 25, 1937

### 654 Homicides In Alabama

MONTGOMERY, Ala., Nov. 22. — The average Negro was more than four times as likely to become the victims of homicide in Alabama last year as the average white person in this State, according to figures on the 1936 homicides rate which have just been prepared by the Bureau

of Vital Statistics of the State Department of Health. The 1936 rate was 46.4 per 100,000 population for colored people and only 10.1 per 100,000 for white people. The rate for the two races as a whole was 23.0 per 100,000 population.

A total of 654 homicides occurred in Alabama during the year, of which number 185 were of white people and 469 colored.

Only two years are listed on the records of the Bureau of Vital Statistics as having the higher homicide death rates than the 1936 rate, these being 1933 and 1934. The lowest rate shown on these records was reached in 1918, when it was only 11.4 per 100,000. The highest rate was 26.0 per 100,000 population reached in 1934.



# Homicide Death Rate High Among Negroes Declares Public Health Statistician

Langston Students Hear That Tuberculosis, Pneumonia, Heart Disease Score Heavily

## Negroes Fail To Use Public Health Service

By JOHN DUNGEE

LANGSTON UNIVERSITY, LANSTON, Okla.—That the darkest spot upon the escutcheon of the Negro race is homicides; that no race in any other nation of the world has as high a homicide rate as the Negro of North America; that the Negro rate in Oklahoma during 1936 was 42.1 per cent, more than eight times that rate of 25 years ago. Oklahoma of whites; and that almost one from 1933-35 had the highest Negro infant mortality rate in the nation. The high Negro infant mortality rate is largely the result of environmental factors, although Negro infants are favored by a lower death rate from erysipelas, congenital malformations, and injuries at birth. Any reduction in the general Negro mortality and infant mortality must be preceded by an accurate knowledge of the incidence of birth. This necessarily means a knowledge of where, when and who to. Every Negro should exert every effort to record the birth of a child.

Guthrie. He spoke more than an hour. "Tuberculosis has always been a leading cause of death among Negroes. In the period of 1881-85 the Negro death rate from tuberculosis was 667 per 100,000; by 1900 this had dropped to 488 and in 1920 was 406 in the city of Oklahoma. In the U. S. Death Registration Area the Negro tuberculosis death rate was 258.5 per 100,000, by 1929 this had dropped to 204.93. In Oklahoma during 1936 pneumonia was first, tuberculosis second with a rate of 157.3, more than four times the rate among the whites." "One important cause of the high mortality of Negroes is their high death rate in infancy, and to a less extent, in early childhood. Infant mortality has been greatly reduced from the appalling high rates of the 20's and it is now not far from the white



Killings - 1937

Georgia

## Admit Others To Hospital

Tommie Williams, sixteen-year-old youth who was felled by a policeman's gun on Thursday of last week, succumbed to the wound Sunday afternoon at Grady hospital. The youngster expired at 2:10 p. m., after putting up a game fight for his life over the three-and-half day period.

Williams who resided with his parents at 470 Markham street, was shot through the head by a member of the Detective division of the Atlanta Police department.

Apprehended in the act of receiving what appeared to be lottery tickets from a white man the youth was commanded to halt but fled. The chase started on Peters street and ended at 133 Chapelle street where Detective Leo and Nahlik fired the fatal shot after the victim had allegedly reached into one of his pockets and halted.

The officer himself rushed the victim to Grady hospital, where every attempt was made to save his life. Doctors began despairing of the victim's chances to survive early Saturday night as he started sinking rapidly. Only his youth and gallant will to cling to life enabled him to live twenty one hours longer.

His death adds victim number 16 to the 1937 lists of colored people killed in Atlanta this year.

James Moody who died Saturday night as a result of shotgun wounds in his right side, allegedly aimed by Otis Wise, will be buried today. Wise had not been apprehended at a late hour Sunday night.

At Grady Sunday two victims were admitted in the early evening. Eugene Jones of Stockbridge, Ga., was admitted in a serious condition growing out of an altercation that ended in gun

play. W. C. Rauls is in a grave condition and was placed in one of the wards as a result of a cerebral hemorrhage suffered in a violent accident or fight. The actual reason was not known by hospital attaches Sunday night.

A new low for station house calls was registered Sunday when officers were able to make but one arrest in a series of typical large-scale and burglary cases. Napier Knch, white of Rockdale Park, Ga., reported the theft of a bag of tools worth approximately \$25 by a person or persons unknown to him. His tools were lifted while his back was turned at the corner of Bell and Fair streets. No arrests had been made Sunday night.

Forrest Evans of 26 Holcombe avenue reported the theft of a \$25 suit of clothes by a prowler who forced a front window. Officers responding to the call arrested Frank Jackson, 22 on suspicion of burglary.

Nellie Mae Harris of 178 South avenue, S. E., reported that someone entered her home while she was away. A witness related seeing a tall man weighing around 140 pounds prowling about the street and ended at 133 Chapelle street where Detective Leo and Nahlik fired the fatal shot after the victim had allegedly reached into one of his pockets and halted.

## STAB VICTIM PASSES

The fatal stabbing of Jim Hightower, 28, of the year of 535 Robb street, moved the number of colored killings for the year to 20. The victim was found dead near 48 Bumstead alley.

Hightower's 16-year-old wife, Lucille, was booked on a charge of suspicion of murder, police reports revealed.

Witnesses informed investigating officers that Hightower and his wife were prior to the stabbing.

## Police Fatally Wound Escaped

*Daily World 3-11-37*  
**Convict Early Wednesday;**  
*Atlanta, Ga.*  
**Claim Resisted Arrest**

A man identified as Gene Mitchell, alias "James Mitchell," 28, escaped convict from the Bellwood prison camp February 7, where he was serving a long term for robbery, was reported shot down and fatally wounded early Wednesday morning by City Detective J. S. Tuggle.

Notified that the suspect was living at 312 Hills Avenue, apartment three, Detectives Tuggle and D. C. Vaughn sought his arrest around 1:30 o'clock Wednesday morning.

Mitchell jumped out of the window and fled, the officers declared. Detective Tuggle followed the fleeing man and fired at him three times when Mitchell is alleged to have picked up a rock and hurled it at the officer, it was officially reported.

According to attaches at the Tompkins' funeral home where the body is being held, two of the slugs from the officer's gun struck Mitchell, striking him in his head and a knee.

The escaped convict was fatally wounded in front of 336 Kuhrt street, it was reported by the detectives. The rock, said to have been thrown by Mitchell, was turned into the detective department as evidence.

Mitchell was dead on arrival at Grady hospital.

Miss Viola Wilson, 28, was taken into custody and booked on suspicion of harboring a criminal. Detective Tuggle in a statement to the WORLD Wednesday evening said Miss Wilson denied knowing Mitchell and insisted that the deceased came to her home Tuesday and asked her to let him spend the night with her.

## MAN HELD IN WEDNESDAY SLAYING

*Daily World 3-12-37*  
**Andrew Goodman Pul**  
**On Suspicion List**  
**For Man's Death**  
**QUIZ SEVERAL**

*Atlanta, Ga.*  
Suspected of the murder Wednesday night of Richard Baldwin, 23, of 570 Connally street, SE, a man listed as Andrew Goodman, 28, of a Pratt street address, was taken into custody Thursday morning by Radio Patrolmen C. E. Hale and L. W. Belcher.

The suspect was reported arrested on Butler street near Decatur street at about 11:15 a. m.

Baldwin was killed by a blow from a blunt instrument, and was shot through the heart, as he and a young woman, listed by police as Miss Dorothy White, 19, of 24 Dorothy Lane, were leaving a house at 336 Hunter street, SE.

Witnesses are alleged to have informed police that a man walked into the hall of the house as Baldwin and the young woman were leaving, and fired a pistol twice one of the shots being wild.

Police who investigated the shooting said they found Baldwin dead on the floor of the front room of the house. His death was made

official by a Grady hospital interne.

According to detectives and policemen, witnesses to the shooting were Miss White, Miss Annie Lee Partee, 25, Mrs. Annie Williams, 31, and Lois Broughton, 36, all of 336 Hunter street, SE.

City Detectives Newton and Preston are further investigating the shooting.

## WATCHMAN IS CLUBBED TO DEATH

*Daily World 3-15-37*  
**Slayer Breaks Skull**  
**And Knocks Out**  
**Eye Of Man**  
*Atlanta, Ga.*  
**24TH KILLING**

City detectives were investigating the brutal slaying early Sunday morning of a night watchman, Adam McNeil, 40, of 148 Walnut street, who was clubbed to death at the Sherman Concrete Pipe Company, 1285 Sylvan Road. His death moved the homicide total for the year to 24.

His forehead broken by a blow from a blunt instrument, and his right eye knocked completely out, McNeil's body was found at 6:30 o'clock Sunday morning lying on the floor of the pipe company.

The dead man was found by Paul Eubanks, an employee of the plant. Detectives were working on the motive that McNeil was killed and then robbed. C. C. Minor, plant superintendent, informed detectives that the deceased was paid \$22.50 Saturday night, but it had been removed from his person when Eubanks found him.

A penny and McNeil's apron which had been torn from his

body, were found near him. Detectives Taylor and Johnson arrested a former employee of the plant, who is alleged to have owed McNeil money. He was to have been questioned further Sunday night.



# WOULD CUT HOMICIDE RATE IS BELIEF

A survey of homicides in Atlanta covering the time between January 1934 and July 1936 reveals that the ratio of colored killings to white murders was 13 to one.

Records which supplied data for the timely survey show that approximately 30 white people were killed in the last three years, while 388 colored persons died as the result of homicidal violence.

The survey points out that "according to population there should only be an average of five colored persons killed per year."

An Anti-crime committee consisting of Forrester B. Washington, Reginald A. Johnson, S. W. Walker, J. H. McGrew, the Rev. D. T. Babcock, S. J. Thompson and C. A. Scott, is now in possession of the homicide survey.

As a remedy to the deplorable crime situation here, the author of the survey recommends "that Negro police be employed."

"Since nearly all of the colored murders are committed in densely populated areas dominated by colored people and former Police Chief T. O. Sturdivant says the present police force is not getting much cooperation from Negroes and 60 per cent of the work of police involves colored, the author recommends that Negro police be employed."

Six reasons why the homicide rate is so high among colored people are cited in the survey:

1. During the depression unemployed Negroes increased in number so rapidly that relief programs could not properly administer to their needs.

2. Job seekers from rural areas came to Atlanta and overcrowded the colored sections, further complicating the problem and creating groups of persons with en-

forced, uncontrolled leisure. 3. Laissez-faire attitude of police and court in cases where Negroes kill Negroes are a contributing factor to high homicide rates.

4. The survey found that murder is seldom punished by the death sentence in Georgia. According to a study of 466 indictments re-turned in 27 Georgia counties by only 22 persons received the death sentence.

5. Of the 168 murders listed by wards (in Atlanta), 73 occurred in the Fourth Ward; 45 in the First Ward one, and 21 in Ward three. These wards are densely populated by Negroes.

6. The inability of police to classify Negroes leads to the use of "stool pigeons" who protect their friends and further hinder law enforcement.

Nearly four pages of the 14-page homicide survey deal with the efficiency of colored police employed by the Police Department of many things over which they had no control.

United States. It reveals that to date 18 cities employ a total of 285 colored police officers. Many of these cities have boasted of colored officers on the police force more than 60 years.

The cities and number of policemen are: New York 120; Seattle, Washington, 2; East St. Louis, Ill., 5; Omaha, Neb., 9; Washington, D. C., 39; Des Moines, Iowa, 4; Minneapolis, Minn., 3; St. Paul, Minn., 2; Denver, Colo., 1; Oklahoma City, Okla., 5; Louisville, Ky., 8; Cincinnati, Ohio, 8; Wheeling, W. Va., 1; Houston, Texas, 8; Charleston, W. Va., 8; Los Angeles, Calif., 43; San Antonio, Texas, 5; and Knoxville, Tenn., 4.

In many of these cities, the colored policemen are assigned to the colored sections. This case stands out mainly in the South, according to the survey.

The Chief of Police of the Oklahoma City Police Department says, "We believe that a colored officer can do more among his own race in prevention of crime, as he knows the habits and trails of his own race better than white officers. They have been very efficient in apprehending colored criminals."

Chief of Police R. B. Thorp of Austin, Texas said, "Negro police were appointed at the request of the citizenry. These colored officers have proved very efficient and their appointment has aided in recommending colored police-

men for Atlanta, the author of the survey observed; "The present police set-up of 148 Walnut street, who was found battered to death Sunday morning, it was reported by police. Officials said City Detective D. L. Taylor had obtained confessions from Fred Strickland's brother, Grady Strickland, of the rear of 1700 Stewart avenue, and from his brother-in-law, Jesse Randall, of the 1748 Stewart avenue.

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Adam McNeil, night watchman for the Concrete Pipe Company on Sylvan road, was found battered to death by another employe early Sunday morning. The superintendent of the plant, C. C. Minor, white advanced the theory that the night watchman had been robbed because he was paid \$22.50 the previous Saturday night.

Fred Strickland was first suspected of the crime when he is alleged to have flashed two ten dollar bills at a store early Sunday. The two who are reported to have signed statements that Fred Strickland told them he killed the night watchman were being held Wednesday night as material witnesses. They were arrested Tuesday.

Police officials said Grady Strickland and Jesse Randall stated that Fred Strickland lost all of his money at a gambling game late Saturday night. According to the detective, McNeil was struck with a wrench three times as he slept in a chair.

"Colored police would have more respect for their women and in turn demand more respect from the race. Colored police would relieve the tension which exists between white police and colored people."

## STRICKLAND BELIEVED KILLER

Claim Detective Has Confessions Naming Youth As Slayer

TWO WITNESSES  
Fred Strickland, 18, of Lincoln

drive, was named Wednesday night as the slayer of Adam McNeil, 40, set-up of 148 Walnut street, who was found battered to death Sunday morning, it was reported by police. Officials said City Detective D. L. Taylor had obtained confessions from Fred Strickland's brother, Grady Strickland, of the rear of 1700 Stewart avenue, and from his brother-in-law, Jesse Randall, of the 1748 Stewart avenue.

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Police officials said Grady Strickland and Jesse Randall stated that Fred Strickland lost all of his money at a gambling game late Saturday night. According to the detective, McNeil was struck with a wrench three times as he slept in a chair.

His skull was crushed and his right eye knocked completely out. Final rites for Adam McNeil will be held this afternoon, starting at 2 o'clock from the Flipper Temple AME church. Interment will take place in Lincoln Memorial Park. The Rev. H. M. Parker will officiate.

## 25-Year-Old Youth Is Fatally Stabbed

Police Follow Up Testimony Of Witnesses To Wind Up With Arrest For Friday Midnight Slaying Of Grady Long  
HOLD MARTIN ON SUSPICION

Saturday found the city of Atlanta credited with another colored killing. The fatal stabbing around midnight Friday of a man listed as Grady Long, 25, of 1073

Reynolds avenue, moved the total number of slayings for the year to 23. Stabbed in the chest and neck, allegedly at a soft drink stand located at 1086

Reynolds avenue, the victim, was found wandering to an alley in the rear of 1073 Reynolds, where he fell pronounced dead on arrival. Following up information offered by eye-witnesses to the crime R. A. D. Patrolmen the officers went to 1032 Herndon Streetman and Thrasher the body by trailing drops of blood from the scene of the slaying. The young man's body was rushed to Grady hospital, but was pronounced dead on arrival.

NEGRO WATCHMAN IS SLAIN AT PLANT  
Former Worker for Company Arrested by Police as Suspect.  
The brutal slaying of a negro night watchman early yesterday morning at







Killings-1937

# Fuss Over Woman Leads To Slaying Of C. Hughes

Unknown Killer Flees With Dead Man's Girl Friend

Atlanta's twenty-fifth colored homicide victim was listed Sunday night when Charles Hughes of Oakland City succumbed to gunshot wounds inflicted around 5 p. m. Sunday afternoon. The official Grady Hospital record revealed that the deceased passed at 6:40 p. m.

Eyewitnesses say Charles Hughes was standing in front of 231 Howard Avenue in College Park talk- ing to a young woman Morris shot Dan Lord near who lives at that resi- dence when an un- known man walked up and inter- rupted the conversation.

A heated argument ensued which had as a climax, the shoot- ing. Eyewitnesses declared that the slayer brandished a revolver and shot three or four times at Hughes, the missiles tearing through his chest and causing his death a short while after- wards. There was an interim of 15 minutes between the time Hughes was actually shot and placed in- to an ambulance bound for emerg- ency treatment at Grady.

Bystanders declared further that the killer took the woman in his car and fled the scene. Of- ficers had failed to apprehend him as the WORLD went to press.

## JURY IS DEADLOCKED IN SLAYING OF NEGRO

WRIGHTSVILLE, Ga., March 17. After deliberating for 24 hours, a Johnson County superior court jury here tonight was deadlocked over the fate of Albert Morris, white man, charged with the murder of a negro, Dan Lord. Reports were that the jury stood 11 to one for conviction. Morris was charged with the fatal shooting of Lord near here in January, and had been held in jail without bond under a justice's court commitment since the killing. He was indicted Monday.

# WHITE MAN GUILTY IN GEORGIA KILLING

All-White Jury, Out 41 Hours, Returns Guilty Verdict, But Recommends Mercy.

DUBLIN, Ga., Mar. 25—(ANP)—Albert Morris, white man charged with murdering a Negro, faces a life term in the State prison, following his conviction Thursday after a Johnson County Supreme Court jury found him guilty and then recommended mercy. The jury debated from late Tuesday afternoon until 9 o'clock Thursday in College Park talk- morning before reaching a verdict. ing to a young woman Morris shot Dan Lord near who lives at that resi- dence when an un- known man walked up and inter- rupted the conversation. The state contended Lord was slain without provocation when Morris went to the former's house, while the defense pleaded Morris shot after Lord first had fired on him.

## First Killing In 33 Days Brings Total For Season To Figure Of 25

The death of Willie Wilkins, 31 years old, of 438 Davis street, at Grady Hospital late Saturday night added another name to At- lanta's 1937 homicide list. It was the first colored killing reported to the Police Department in 33 days and moves the total to 25, one more than last year at this time. Wilkins, who was ad- mitted to Grady Hos- pital early Saturday morning, was reported shot in the North Avenue, N.W. Knox was shot in a foot on Strong street, in- and Strong streets by a man known only as Cliff. Two men, believed at the point of death, were admitted last night to the emergency ward at Grady. Jim Stincer, alias "Acey White" of

25

# WOMAN DIES OF WOUND

Pronounced "dead on arrival" at Grady early Friday morning, Miss Fannie Smith, 22, of 105 1-2 Deca- tur street, accounted for the 26th killing of Atlanta during the cur- rent year. The victim was stabbed in the left side of the breast with a knife, dy- ing shortly following the incident, records revealed.

On answering a call to the address of the deceased, police reported that Miss Betty Broughton, 23, ad- mitted the crime and was arrested. The body was found on the floor. No cause was established for the killing at latest reports. The arrest- ed woman and witnesses testified that Betty walked up to Fannie, who was standing behind a piano, and said, "You don't believe I'll stab you?" The knife was then sent into the woman's breast, they said. A private ambulance carried the body to Grady where it was pro- nounced "D.O.A."

## Grand Jury Indicts 2 On Murder Charges

Two persons were indicted or indicted for robbery. The bill al- leges she snatched \$40 from one Paul Brooks.

Two persons were indicted or indicted for robbery. The bill al- leges she snatched \$40 from one Paul Brooks.

Indictments charging assault with intent to murder were return- ed against Jim Chambers for the shot-gun shooting of William Ra- ven and Norman Earl on April 18; Louis Collins, alias "Day-Day", alias "Shorty" for the pistol shoot- ing of Will Jackson on April 4; and Lucious Davis and Jessie Tribble for wounding of James Andrews on April 11. An additional charge forty chain gang serving time for a carrying a pistol was made against

## NEGRO JAILED, ADMITS 1909 GEORGIA SLAYING

PATERSON, N. J., Sept. 16.—(AP)—A 47-year-old negro con- fessed today, acting Detective Captain James Smith said, that he killed a Georgia negro in a New Year's day quarrel over a cheap lamp 28 years ago. Captain Smith said the man's name was Joseph Douglass, alias Henry Williams, of Paterson. Douglass was arrested yesterday by a negro policeman, Fred Thompson, who said he acted on a "tip." The killing occurred, Smith said, January 1, 1909, on a planta- tion in Blakely county, Ga., and the victim's name was Joseph Washington. 18.

## NEGROES CONFESS HOLDUP SLAYING

Pair Signs Paper Admit- ting Brutal Killing of Tea Salesman in 1935. Two Atlanta negroes, one of whom was found on a Hall coun- cil chain gang serving time for a carrying a pistol was made against



prohibition law violation, yesterday signed confessions admitting the robbery and brutal shotgun-slaying of J. R. Perkins, 50-year-old tea salesman, December 17, 1935, in the rear of his Fourth street residence, police announced.

The prisoners were listed as Walter Hammond, employee of Mayfield Turner, rear of a Linden avenue address, and Robert Alexander, both 24 years old.

Alexander was returned to Atlanta early yesterday from Gainesville by Detectives M. B. Johnson and D. L. Taylor, who obtained the confessions.

Turner was arrested last August 26 by Detectives Leo Nahlik and M. M. Coppenger, following meager information given them by a street car operator.

The street car man, they said described and later identified Turner as having a shotgun aboard his inbound Druid Hills trolley one night shortly after the killing and holdup.

Turner was indicted for the crime about a month after his arrest.

In the statements yesterday each of the negroes accused the other of firing the fatal shot, but claimed that it was accidental.

Both of the negroes have also admitted several other holdups and burglaries, Taylor said. Alexander, too, committed several burglaries during the past few months in Gainesville, the officer declared.

Alexander's indictment for participation in the robbery-slaying probably will be sought Tuesday.

## 28TH HOMICIDE HERE REMAINS UNSOLVED

Atlanta's 28th colored killing was recorded Monday night, when John Henry Perkins, 40, of 277 Butler Street, died of pistol wounds. The mystery surrounding the Perkins' murder and the injury to two others, remained unsolved Tuesday, even though the alleged killer was in jail.

According to police records, Perkins, listed also as Charlie Richardson, is alleged to have received a call from Harry Bledsoe, 28, at his home, requesting him to come to the shoe shine parlor which he operated. Bledsoe is reported to have said that he "wanted to see him." Upon arriving at his place of business,

Perkins was shot three times, it was stated. Bledsoe fled in Perkins' car, wrecked the car on Ivy street near Peachtree, and was slightly injured.

Upon hearing of the shooting, Walter Hammond, employee of Perkins, went to Grady hospital to ask about his employer's condition. While there, he was severely stabbed by a woman listed as Polly Petty, of a Randolph Street address, it was stated by police.

Polly was arrested and booked on assault to murder charges. The Bledsoe man is in jail, charged with suspicion of murder.

The murder of the Lynch Alley man marked the 30th colored killing for the city of Atlanta during the current year. The death of Eva Ealey, of 115 Walnut Street, on last Saturday night, which proved upon investigation to have been caused by knife wounds, was the 29th. It was not listed at the time due to scarcity of details. Three women have since been arrested and charged with the crime.

## 'Brick Hurler' Dies Of Wounds; Shot By Officer

Will Jackson, victim of a police officer's shot, last Sunday morning, died at Grady hospital Thursday, marking the 34th colored killing of the current year. (The Wednesday death of Andrew P. Jackson, a holdup shooting, not previously listed, marked the 33rd.) Shot by Patrolman P. B. Bailey at Fitz-gerald and Decatur streets, the man was reported to have been throwing bricks in a demented fashion at everybody who passed the corner Saturday night. After being called to the scene, it was said, Patrolman Bailey approached the man, demanding that he surrender. Jackson is alleged to have thrown bricks at the officer who shot him in the abdomen and hip areas. He lay critically wounded at Grady until his death at 7:10 A. M. Thursday, officially booked as "resisting arrest."

## 34 KNIFED MAN PASSES AT GRADY

A knife fight in the home of two alleged drunken men proved fatal to one Thursday morning with the death of Clarence Johnson recorded on his second arrival to Grady clinic. Johnson, who lived at 9 Lynch Alley with Alexander Amos, was alleged by the latter to have come home and started an argument, then a knife fight. Both men, reported as in a drunken state, were severely cut and stabbed in the affray. Amos is said to have walked to the Grady hospital, while an ambulance carried Johnson down to the Butler Street site. Amos, less seriously injured of the two, was treated and sent to the police station where charges of "disorderly conduct-stabbing" were booked against him. Johnson, more badly hurt, was kept under observation of a Grady doctor.

Around 5:45 o'clock Thursday morning, according to the attending physician, Johnson "snapped out of it" and appeared enabled to take his place in the city jail along

## Victim Was Chopped Down By Foe On Butler Street 35TH KILLING

The death of James White, 26, of 86 Pratt Street, near midnight Thursday at Grady Hospital, marked the 35th colored killing of 1937.

White was cut in multiple places about the scalp, neck and abdomen Thursday afternoon by Westley Solomon, Edgewood avenue filling station employee, who resides at 266 Edgewood. Solomon surrendered to officers near Grady clinic soon after the cutting melee at 26 Butler Street, N. E. White had run alone to the clinic with blood gushing from his head and body areas.

Soloman told police, immediately following his arrest, that the wounded man had "picked after" him ever since he recovered from a cheek wound incurred by the latter some time ago. At police headquarters it was revealed that Solomon said he was at his sister-in-law's house with his wife Thursday afternoon when White came in drinking a bottle of beer and started an argument. As this was the first time he had been in close range of his former attacker, Solomon stated, he paid him back for the cut which marks his face.

## Knife Stabs Felt To Be Cause Of Man's Instant Death

Pronounced "dead on arrival" at Grady hospital Saturday night, Robert Lee Heard, of a Curry St. N. E. address, was the 36th colored person killed during 1937. Heard, up to Oliver and said, apparently died of "Here are the men who have knife stabs and cuts been messing with me." He also stated that he had been in a Hayley Brothers am-balance attached said trying to make love to a young bodygirl, and when he stopped him, the father Oliver got angry and drew a gun up at 214 Curry Street. The dead man accompanied the body to Grady. At this point, Rollie Oliver is said could give no definite information to have gotten out of his car as to the killing. It was indicated and asked Brown what he had that a woman living in the vicinity to do with it. Brown is reported to have told Oliver to the man. No one had been apprehended in the killing at press time, wasn't afraid of him.

# FRED PINSON DIES AFTER GUNFIRE

## Records Show Rollie Oliver Handled Deadly Weapon ON WEST SIDE

Gunfire which broke the peaceful slumber of West Side residents early Sunday morning resulted in the death of Fred Pinson of 521 Tatnall Street and the wounding of Tom Brown of 534 Tatnall Street. Pinson's death was Atlanta's 37th colored killing of the current year.

According to police reports the shooting was done by a man listed as Rollie Oliver of a Fair Street address who escaped following the shooting. Other sources reported a gun battle ensued.

Police records reveal that according to Brown, he met Pinson, who told him that some men had been "messing" with him and that he suggested they get a small "drink."

After getting the drink they started walking up High street where they saw Rollie Oliver who was sitting in an automobile and Emory Oliver who was standing near the car, it was said.

Pinson is reported to have walked up to Oliver and said, "Here are the men who have been messing with me." He also stated that he had been in a Hayley Brothers am-balance attached said trying to make love to a young bodygirl, and when he stopped him, the father Oliver got angry and drew a gun up at 214 Curry Street. The dead man accompanied the body to Grady. At this point, Rollie Oliver is said could give no definite information to have gotten out of his car as to the killing. It was indicated and asked Brown what he had that a woman living in the vicinity to do with it. Brown is reported to have told Oliver to the man. No one had been apprehended in the killing at press time, wasn't afraid of him.

Oliver is alleged to have fired Emory and Rollie Oliver got into once, striking Brown in the elbow, the car and drove away hurriedly. Pinson was taken to Grady and then turned and fired at Pinson, striking him. After Pinson fell to the ground Oliver is alleged to have walked over to the body and poured three more shots into his body. Following the shooting, both



Killings-1937

Georgia

# STAB, SHOT FATAL TO DUO POLICE LIST SUNDAY GUN VICTIM

Haygoods Alley Man,  
Gun Victim; Pratt  
St. Man Knifed

## MINOR REASONS

Two men were killed in Atlanta Saturday. One was stabbed to death with an ice pick and the other was the victim of a shot-gun.

The two deaths moved the total number of local killings for the year to 92.

Julius Foster, 42, of 59 Haygoods Alley, was dead on arrival at Grady hospital. He was reported shot in the chest at a specatur street address.

91

Nelson shot Foster with a shot-gun after the two had engaged in an argument concerning an automobile, police reports showed.

Mrs. Azlie Foster, described by police as the wife of the deceased, was quoted as saying her son borrowed Foster's car and was drunk when he returned. Foster is alleged to have rebuked the youth, causing the argument.

Nelson was running when he shot Foster, police were informed. Mrs. Foster was listed as witness to the shooting.

Said to have been stabbed in the heart with an ice pick by his wife, Dewey Dean, 59, of 117 Pratt street, died shortly after being admitted to Grady hospital Saturday night.

92

Hospital Policeman Hughes said he was told that Dean had been threatening his wife and made several threats shortly before being stabbed.

# POLICE LIST SUNDAY GUN VICTIM

Man Shot On Bell  
Street Dies Later  
In Grady Ward

## OFFICER SHOT

Atlanta's 93rd colored killing was recorded at seven o'clock Sunday morning when Charlie Mapp, 30, of 119 Pratt street succumbed to a gun wound allegedly inflicted by Will King. The bullet entered the man's left cheek and turned into the mouth with fatal consequences.

Witnesses told police that King chased the deceased down Auburn and into Bell where he pulled out a pistol and fired twice. Only one of the bullets took effect. The pistol was of .38 caliber.

A cab driver reported that the victim ran and jumped into his car and asked to be taken to a hospital. The man was admitted at Grady in a dying condition at two o'clock Sunday morning and lived five hours. The man who shot Mapp, referred to by witnesses as Will King, had not been apprehended at a later hour Sunday evening.

## Man Shot In Leg

Willie Clemons, 30, of 329 Trenholm Street was treated at Grady for a gun wound in the left leg and dismissed. According to Clemons he and Booker McKissee of Larkin Street had been in a prolonged argument.

The victim declares that he left his own house and was fired upon

in the middle of Trenholm Street by McKissee. Witnesses seeing the actions of the assailant, warned Clemons and averted further injury to him. The assailant is described as being tall, dark, slim with two eye-gold teeth.

W. G. Harris of Raburn, Ga., found out that it is not very sensible to leave one's baggage or bundles around in the Terminal station. He placed a package containing \$33 worth of clothing on a bench in the main waiting room only to find it missing when he returned.

## Police Officer Shot

Two officers reported that at 3:30 a. m. they spotted a colored man walking down Chapel Street. They backed up to the curb and asked him why he was "out" at such an hour whereupon the man "faded" away in behind 524 Fair Street, S.W.

One of the officers jumped out of the car and followed him to the rear while the remaining officer pulled the car around the corner and came around to the back where the first officer had caught the fugitive. Upon questioning it was found that he had been visiting some friends and was on his way home.

The officers then declared that they came out from behind the restaurant and went to the corner to get into the car, when they heard a gun go off. One of the officers felt glass strike him about his face while his companion remarked he had been hit.

Both say that they yelled to the man in the restaurant and told them who they were and to come out. The man in the restaurant said he would have to dress first and for both to come to the back. Instead of waiting, the officer hastened to the hospital with his wounded companion where a bullet wound was found and removed. It was lodged in the right shoulder blade. He was treated and dismissed, suffering only a flesh wound.

Going back to the restaurant the man was found and he gave his name as Roosevelt Devaughn, 36 of 524 Larkin Street, colored. He said he was sleeping in the back. He turned over a 32 automatic pistol and was locked up on disorderly conduct charges of shooting another. The trial was set for 8:30 a. m. Monday, November 8. The pistol was turned over to the lieutenant's office.

# 13-YR.-OLD HELD IN MURDER

Youth, 16, Dies Of  
Pellet From Girl  
Shooter's Gun

## CLAIM ACCIDENT

A young woman was being held Friday in the Juvenile Home on "suspicion of murder" following the fatal shooting early the same morning of James L. Barnes, 16, of 89 Walnut street, N.W.

The suspect is Miss Beatrice Moody, 15, of 11 Electric avenue, apartment six. Arresting officers quoted her as saying the shooting was accidental.

The girl said she was shooting a 32 calibre pistol at a tin can but shot Barnes when her aim proved

A witness, Asberry Sullivan of 336 Castleberry street, corroborated the girl's statement.

The young woman told police that she and the two boys had been taking turns at shooting at a tin can.

The pellet pierced the chest of the victim. He was reported shot near the corner of Mangum and Mitchell streets.

Barnes was dead on arrival at Grady hospital. The boy's death marked the 95th colored killing this year.

The Dunn Funeral Home is in charge of the body.

95



# Three Week-end Murders Send '37 Total To 98: Number 15 Below '36

18-Year-Old Girl  
Fatally Wounded  
Monday Afternoon

urday night with a car pick,  
police said. He died Tuesday  
night at 7:25 o'clock.

KILLINGS UP  
TWO POINTS

Atlanta, Ga.  
113th Persons Had Died In Violent Manner On Same Date Last Year,  
Atlanta Homicide Records Show

Atlanta's crime thermometer boiled furiously this past week-end. Three colored killings occurring in the city were reported, making a total of 98 for the year.

Even though this high figure may appear alarming, it is far short of the colored killing record in Atlanta last year this time.

NOVEMBER 23, 1937 ..... 98 KILLED  
NOVEMBER 23, 1936 ..... 113 KILLED

The fatal shooting of Miss Agnes Carter, 18, of 801 McDaniel street, SW, at 2:30 o'clock Monday afternoon pushed the colored killing total to 98.

The young woman was shot through the middle of her stomach in the street almost in front of 1020 Smith street, investigating officers were informed.

A search was started for Floyd Cuthbert, 24, of 1020 McDaniel street, who was described by witnesses as the slayer of the woman. Radio Patrolmen of City Car No. 16, investigated, but failed to obtain any definite facts connected with the shooting.

Witnesses to the killing were listed as Sarah Cark, 23, of 1020 Smith street; Savannah Glass, 28, of 1050 Smith street, and Hazel Hall of 740 Ire street.

A man listed by police as Robert B. Martin was being held Monday for the Sunday night murder of Miss Lula Arthur, 30, of 1040 Sparks street, SW.

Slashed across the neck with a switchblade knife, the woman was dead on arrival at Grady hospital.

Man Stabbed Over A  
Nickle Passes At  
City Hospital

Colored killings in Atlanta soared to 103 Wednesday. The homicide record was augmented by the deaths of Julius Wood, 23, of a Lyons avenue, N. E. address and Miss Lela Palmer, 27, 370 Mayes street, N. W.

Wood was stabbed early Sunday morning following an argument over a nickle, police said. Clarence Butts, 40, of 254 Newport street, Wood's alleged slayer, surrendered to police Monday.

Miss Palmer was fatally wounded around 10:30 o'clock Wednesday night by a blast from a shotgun. Police started a search for her common-law husband, Anderson Jones.

The woman was dead when a Dunn funeral home ambulance arrived at the scene of the killing, Tyler and Mangum streets. Willie Harper, driver of the ambulance, carried the body to Dunn funeral home after first taking it to Grady hospital.

Colored Killings

Boosted To 101

Colored killings in Atlanta moved up another notch Tuesday night. The passing at Grady hospital of Lamine Antney alias Lemmie Anthony, 26, of 308 Scofield street, boosted the killing record to 101.

The victim was stabbed Sat.

103

98

101



Killings - 1937

Georgia.

## NEGRO PROFESSOR IS SHOT TO DEATH

Woman Teacher Held in  
Slaying of Big Bethel  
Leader.

George H. Williams, 51, of 1187 West Hunter street, professor at Booker T. Washington school, died early yesterday morning shortly after police found him in an automobile in front of 105 Simpson street, a bullet wound in the right side of the chest.

Williams, assistant pastor at Big Bethel church and superintendent of the Sunday school, said he had been shot by Rosa M. Cosby, 30, negro, of 487 Ashby street, a teacher in the Ashby Street school and assistant secretary of Big Bethel Sunday school.

The Cosby woman was arrested when she stepped from a bus at Chattanooga, en route to her former home in St. Louis, and was later returned here by Detectives E. I. Hilderbrand and C. L. Taylor. She was booked on a charge of suspicion of murder.

The detectives quoted her as saying "Williams wrecked my life." She said she planned to go to St. Louis, and that Williams objected, telling her, she said, "I'm not going to let you go there and besmirch my name and reflect on my integrity."

The Cosby woman also stated Williams had a gun and several pieces of jewelry belonging to her, and that when she asked him for the articles, he drew the weapon. A scuffle followed and the weapon was discharged once.

Radio Patrolmen P. E. Green and W. C. Acree found Williams with his feet in the car and the rest of his body sprawled on the curb-side.

Williams came to Atlanta from the West Indies. Two years ago he received a biology degree from Gammon Seminary, and the day of his death received a bachelor of arts degree from Clark University.

## STAB VICTIM DIES; 45TH KILLING

Unknown Woman Is  
Termed Stabber Of  
Man Saturday

MACON RESIDENT

Plans were being made Tuesday for burial of the body of Robert Craddick, of Macon, who was fatally stabbed in a fight with an unknown woman at the corner of Butler and Decatur streets. Craddick's death gave Atlanta its 45th colored killing of the year.

James Hutchinson, 18 years old, of 380 Cain street, apartment 8, who was shot in the abdomen Saturday at an Irwin street address, was reported as improved Tuesday at Grady hospital.

G. Henry Howard funeral home is in charge of Craddick's body.

By ROBERT M. RATCLIFFE  
Miss Rosa Cosby, of 487 Ashby street, S.W., was returned to Atlanta from Chattanooga early last night and lodged in jail without bond in connection with the fatal shooting Wednesday morning of the Rev. George H. Williams, 51-year-old Booker T. Washington high school instructor.

Miss Cosby, who is employed as a school teacher at the Ashby Street school, was taken from a bus early Tuesday morning at Chattanooga police and held in custody at the request of the Atlanta Police Department.

Rev. Williams named her as the woman who shot him when Officers W. S. Acree and R. B. Green removed his wounded body from

the scene of the shooting to Grady hospital.

He died at 1:50 a. m. just forty minutes after police came to his rescue.

## Pistol Shot, Brick - Arson Deaths Mount Homicide Total In Atlanta

Following a rather busy week of stabbings, shootings and other forms of assaults in the Gate City, the barometer of colored killings for 1937 took a sudden spurt Saturday and two more were recorded, making a total of 44.

Dying shortly after admittance to Grady hospital late Friday night, Jesse Broughton, 37, of 1329 Bridges Avenue, Bush Mountain, was the 43 person killed this year.

Broughton died of a pistol shot wound in the left side of the head just above the ear, records showed. The bullet pierced the man's brain.

Arrested as the killer was Paul Giddings, of 1406 Bush Mountain Avenue, who allegedly admitted firing the fatal shot but said he "didn't mean to shoot him at all." Witnesses told officers that both men were drunk and arguing over a nickle in a crap game. Giddings is alleged to have thrown the pistol that fired the fatal shot into an unknown place following the shooting.

Killing number 44 was recorded with the brick-arson death of Edward Ernest Boston, 28, of 318 Hilliard Street, N. E., Apartment 1, Saturday afternoon around 2:15 o'clock.

According to police reports, Boston was hit on the head on May 30 in the rear of the house where he resided. It was said that following temporary treatment at Grady, he went to work Monday, May 31, where his employers noticed that he was "acting funny," but that he worked through until Friday night when he returned to his room. He was not seen until 1:15 P. M. Saturday, records showed when a Will Sheppard found him

groaning as he lay in the floor where a kerosene lamp had exploded with oil over everything. He was severely burned, necessitating Grady treatment.

Following Boston's death, Drs. Glenn, Mooney, Mathews, Coleman, all of the Grady staff, examined the victim and arrived at the conclusion that death was caused by the blow of the brick, that the burns were not serious enough to cause death. The brick-hurler was alleged to be under arrest for the murder.

James Hutchinson, 18 of 380 Cain Street, Apartment 8, was admitted to Grady hospital with a gunshot wound of the abdomen said to have been incurred Saturday afternoon at an Irwin Street address.

Said to have been stabbed near the corner of Butler and Decatur streets by an unknown woman, an unknown man, who only told between gasps that his name was "Robert Lee" was in a critical condition late Saturday night. He was given little chance to live by Grady attaches.

## NEGRO GETS CHAIR FOR TORCH DEATH

Chauffeur First To Receive Death Sentence After Plea of Guilty.

Setting a precedent in Fulton superior court, Mitchell Jackson, 27-year-old negro chauffeur, was sentenced to die in the electric chair July 9 after entering a plea of guilty to the torch murder of

his benefactress, Mrs. R. M. Fluker.

Mrs. Fluker was found in a closet battered to death and burned when firemen broke into her Peachtree Heights home May 29 to fight flames. Jackson later confessed he set fire to the house in an effort to cover up his crime.

**Trial Moved Up.**  
The trial, originally scheduled for today, was moved up one day yesterday on agreement of counsel in order to allow the negro to make a plea of guilty. He was brought into court under heavy guard.

Court officials said it was the first time in Fulton county, and probably in Georgia, that a man had been sentenced to the electric chair after pleading guilty.

Judge John D. Humphries received the plea after formal arraignment, heard a brief resume of the crime from several witnesses and imposed the death penalty immediately. There was no jury drawn.

A week ago Judge Humphries appointed William Schley Howard H. A. Allen and Frank A. Hooper Sr., defense counsel. Howard, handling the case yesterday, told the court they had investigated the crime thoroughly, that Jackson had admitted the murder and said the negro told him he killed Mrs. Fluker without reason.

**Blames Liquor.**  
"It must have been the liquor that made me kill her," the negro was quoted by the attorney as saying. Judge Humphries said the plea placed on him "a painful and unusual duty" but that he would not shirk responsibility and would pronounce whatever sentence justice demanded. If there was any slight chance that a jury would give the negro mercy, the judge said he would not accept the plea.



# SWIFT, ORDERLY JUSTICE

Mitchell Jackson, negro, was yesterday sentenced to die in the electric chair after entering a plea of guilty to an atrocious crime. It was the first time in the history of Fulton's courts that a defendant has received the death sentence after a guilty plea.

There can be no questioning the justice of the sentence imposed. Judge John D. Humphries, presiding, stated he would have called a jury trial had he thought any jury would impose anything but the supreme penalty.

It is such prompt action that instills respect for the law and the courts, not alone in the breast of the potential criminal, but in the minds and hearts of the general public. Mob law finds no excuse in a community where the courts act justly and quickly. Relying on those courts, there was no whisper, even, of invoking lynch law in this case.

The negro who murdered Mrs. R. M. Fluker and then set her home on fire, seeking to destroy the evidence of his crime, was granted every protection of the law against injustice. Able attorneys were appointed by the court for his defense. The crime and all its circumstances was thoroughly investigated. The killer admitted his guilt and, in light of that confession, his own family urged that the county be spared the expense of a trial.

When the courts uphold the dignity of the law and invoke the stern mandates of justice, implacably and promptly, as in the Jackson trial and in other recent Georgia cases, crime can be expected to decrease to the minimum and mob violence to disappear.

Atlanta, Ga. Constitution

June 15, 1937

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## ROY WALKER IS FATALLY WOUNDED

Victim Dies Of Pistol Shot In Head Early Monday Morning

## "BULL" ARRESTED

Shot through the head at 2:49 o'clock Monday morning, a man listed by police as Roy Walker, 26 years old, of a Butler street address, died approximately three hours later at Grady hospital.

Scene of the shooting was at 65 Bell street, described by investigating officers as being a chop suey restaurant. Witnesses are alleged to have informed police and detectives that the slayer killed Walker with a pistol taken from a drawer in the kitchen of the Chinese cafe.

Will De-nham, alias "Bull," who is reported to have given a Forrest Turner, 34 years old, of 355 Rock Park Road address, was arrested by Officers R. E. Finley and C. Wright Allen, 36 years old, of 357 Tyler street, was being held in jail Monday on a charge of suspicion of murder.

The pistol was located on the ground near him, it was declared. The killing was the aftermath of an argument between Denham and Walker, police were told. Three witnesses, Lum Pong, proprietor of the cafe; Grace Gordon, of a Fairat street address, and Nellie Wood, of 77 Bell street, NE, told detectives that Denham shot Walker because he was talking to Nellie Wood, a waitress in the Chinese restaurant.

According to the witnesses Walker was talking to the waitress when Denham approached him and started an argument. The alleged slayer was seen to go behind the counter and remove a pistol from a drawer in the kitchen. He came back and fired one bullet above the left eye of the victim, detectives listed the witnesses as saying.

Detectives Johnson and Taylor were assigned to investigate the case.

Following the shooting, Walker was rushed to Grady hospital where he was admitted in a serious and unconscious condition.

## MAN PASSES OF PICK STAB

Holiday Cuttings Run High Following Altercations

## ARRESTS MADE

Identified as the slayer of Jesse Turner, 34 years old, of 355 Rock street, SW, a man listed as Paul Allen, 36 years old, of 357 Tyler street, was being held in jail Monday on a charge of suspicion of murder.

Stabbed above the heart Saturday with an ice pick near the railroad crossing on Thurmond street, Turner died Monday.

He named Allen as his attacker and identified him at Grady before he was called by death, detectives said. The passing of Turner gave At-

lanta its 52nd colored killing of the year, the second within a period of two days.

Cause of the ice pick attack was not made known.

Police were investigating several stabbing cases Monday. An argument over how to cook potatoes led to the arrest of Ocy Barnum, 38 years old, of the rear of 167 Clifford street, and the near-fatal stabbing of Sallie Mae Allen, 38 years of age, the rear of 168 Clifford street. The victim was stabbed in the abdomen early Monday. Judge Walter White, 21 years old, of 200 Hilliard street, NE, apartment 2, was arrested and booked on a charge of stabbing Henry Jackson, 24 years old, of the rear of 21 Yonge street, NE. Jackson was stabbed about the right arm and back Monday morning around 9 o'clock.

Beaten about the head in the basement of 831 Ponce DeLeon avenue, Alice Jordon, 25 years old, was reported in a serious condition. Perry Jordon, 27, was arrested and charged with the attack.

A man listed as Cornelius Dardy, of a Proctor street address, was in serious condition after he had been stabbed by a man, who is alleged to have been cutting at his wife Mrs. Mamie Wolford, 30 years old.

## NEGRO EXECUTED FOR TORCH DEATH

Mitchell Jackson Spends Night Reading Bible, Then Goes to Chair Quietly

MILLEDGEVILLE, Ga., July 9 (AP)—Mitchell Jackson, 26-year-old Negro chauffeur, was electrocuted today less than six weeks after he confessed killing his employer, Mrs. R. M. Fluker, in a dispute over \$1.50 and setting fire to her home.

Prison officials said it was one of the speediest cases of execution on record.

Clint Pinson, another Negro scheduled to die today on a charge of killing Rosecoe Harbin in an argument in Harbin's Atlanta store three years ago, won a 30-day respite. His attorney had not been able to press the case because of a broken leg.

Jackson went to the chair silently except for a mumbled, "Save me, Jesus Christ," just as the switch sending the first of two shocks through his body was pulled. Prison officials said he spent most of the night reading the Bible.

His wife and mother were with him when guards came to lead him to the death chamber.

Jackson was sentenced to death a short while after he pleaded guilty June 14 to slaying Mrs. Fluker whose burned and battered body was found by firemen in the ruins of her suburban Atlanta home May 29.

Discharged by Mrs. Fluker's husband a few days before, Jackson had been rehired by her the day of her death. Police said the Negro confessed he killed the matron in an argument over \$1.50, beat her, crammed her body into a pantry and then sprinkled gasoline about and set fire to the house.

Before the two shocks of electricity were administered Jackson was asked if he had any statement to make.

"I ain't got nothing to say," he replied.

He was clad in a blue striped shirt and a pair of prison duck pants, slit up the leg to permit the electrodes to be fastened there.

Mrs. Fluker was the former Adele Doughty, daughter of Mrs. J. P. Doughty and the late Mr. Doughty of Augusta, a prominent cotton merchant.

## TURPENTINE RIDER KILLED IN JESUP

Mitchell MacAbee Is Shot Trying to Quiet Disturbance in Negro Camp

JESUP, Ga., Dec. 26 (AP)—Mitchell MacAbee, 50, woods rider at a turpentine camp near here, was shot to death last night while trying to quiet a disturbance in the Negro quarters of the camp.

Sheriff R. E. Warren of Wayne county later arrested a Negro he named as S. B. Brown of Screven, and charged him with the slaying.

Brown was hurried to Savannah and placed in the Chatham county jail for safekeeping. The sheriff said there was "high feeling" here after the shooting but that he had no trouble in getting the Negro away.

MacAbee got into an altercation with Brown, Sheriff Warren said, and knocked him down twice when the Negro threatened him. Brown left but came back in a few minutes with a gun and shot MacAbee through the head, the sheriff said.

Brown was captured without resistance early today at a Negro cabin about 10 miles from the scene of the shooting.

MacAbee was employed by H. L. Grace, turpentine operator. He is survived by his widow and six children.



Killings-1937

# First Killing Of 1937 Is Recorded

GORY RECORD OF 1936

The city of Atlanta last Saturday night was the scene of its first colored killing of the New Year. Motive of the slaying as well as the identity of the victim was veiled in a cloud of mystery. The dying man was removed from the corner of Peters and Beerman streets. The victim died en route to Grady hospital from gunshot wounds.

## 120 Fulton Murders Recorded for 1936

Five persons were indicted for murder yesterday at the first regular session of the January-February grand jury at which 17 true bills and four no bills were returned. At the last session of the November-December grand jury last week, six indictments charging murder were returned.

In an official check of the court and police records it was revealed more than 120 murders were committed in Fulton county last year. The majority of these involved negroes. In the superior court during 1936 83 murder cases were tried. Of this number, 18 were acquitted; 47 convicted on nolle prossed and 12 entered guilty pleas.

Murder indictments returned yesterday were as follows: Ralph Benton was charged with the murder of John Jinks; G. W. Carter was indicted for the alleged murder of John Roper; John Davis was charged with the alleged stabbing-murder of "Sonny Boy" Gilbert; Mozelle Hackney with the alleged fatal stabbing of Jimmie Baynes and Henry Walker with the alleged fatal cutting of Eugene Brown.

## NEGRO GETS 20 YEARS AFTER PLEA OF GUILTY

Joe Wright, 46-year-old negro, was sentenced to serve 20 years by Superior Judge Hugh M. Dorsey yesterday after he had pleaded guilty to a voluntary manslaughter charge. He was indicted for the murder of a white man in the basement of a tenth street residence on July 3.

The hog stealing career of Will Gay, 35, was ended, at least temporarily yesterday when a Fulton superior court jury found him guilty and he was sentenced to serve from six to twelve years. County Policemen Fred Bradford and W. L. Duncan, who trailed Gay for over a week, testified he would kill a hog in its pen, cut off the portions he desired and take them home.

Incomplete returns disclose that 35,708 persons lost their lives in automobile accidents in 1936, only 353 less than the total for 1935. When the complete figures for 1936 are reported the 1936 casualties will be equalled, if not exceeded. Five states have reported for only 11 months, one for nine months and one for eight months. Illinois, with 2,365 deaths in eight months, will likely report close to that 353 alone.

Georgia's 910 deaths in 11 months is 10 more than in 12 months last year, and whatever the final total for the state may be, the Atlanta area contributed 86—an inexcusable showing in view of the strenuous efforts made to reduce accidents and deaths.

New York state's 2,600 deaths in 1936 was a reduction from 2,913 in 1935, and members of the government's accident prevention conference said that the decrease "was attributed largely to the enactment and strict enforcement of laws against speeding, drunken and reckless driving."

California's increase in deaths from 2,797 in 1935 to 3,050 in 1936 was attributed to the huge number of automobile tourists who motor through the state on vacation trips, many of whom come from states where there is no drivers' license law. Drivers have pursued the same recklessness in that state as they are accustomed to at home—with disastrous results to themselves and other motorists.

The trend of opinion among groups which are working for safety upon the highways is for uniform traffic laws in all the states, and what is known as the standard drivers' license law is advanced as the model to follow. Some 21 states now have this standard law and it has been found most effective in decreasing accidents.

## 3 ATLANTA NEGROES ARE MURDER VICTIMS HERE IN SINGLE DAY

### Two Men Are Stabbed to Death; Third Is Shot Through Heart.

Murders took the lives of three Atlanta negroes yesterday, police reports reveal.

Gilbert Martin, 39, alias "Sonny Boy," was found dead in bed yesterday morning in his home at 752 Py-lant street, N. E. He had been stabbed with a knife in the left temple. Police are seeking a negro named John Watts in connection with the case.

Martin's wife, Emma Lou Martin, told police Watts and her husband quarreled when Watts accused Martin of slapping his wife.

Although stabbed in the heart with an ice pick, Eugene Brown, of 374 Hilliard street alley, staggered to Grady hospital early yesterday morning, where he died several hours later. He told police he was stabbed during a fight at 392 1-2 Old Wheat street.

Five negroes were arrested on suspicion, investigation of murder, in connection with the case. They were listed as Johnnie Mae Blake, 22; Corrine Jones, 30; Lula Wimbley, 27; Harry Blake, 29, and Dewey Wimbley, all of 392 1-2 Old Wheat street.

Found lying in front of 387 Peter street with a bullet in his heart, Willie James Matthews, 23, of the Pittsburgh community, was pronounced dead on arrival at Grady hospital early yesterday morning.

A negro woman listed as Lee Cruse, of 320 Humphries street, was also wounded slightly, in the left leg. Police are seeking a negro known as "Little George," of the Mechanicsville section, for questioning in the case.

## NEGRO AT ATHENS SENTENCED TO DIE

Willie Frank Daniel Is Convicted of Slaying Policeman Stein.

ATHENS, Ga., Jan. 13.—(AP)—Willie Frank Daniel, Athens negro, was convicted in Clarke superior court today for the slaying of Policeman Herman Stein and was sentenced to die in the electric chair at Milledgeville

on February 19.

The jury deliberated 25 minutes. Judge Blanton Fortson pronounced sentence immediately after the verdict was read to a crowded courtroom.

The trial opened yesterday morning.

The policeman was fatally shot on November 29 while attempting to arrest Daniel as a burglary suspect and died several hours later. The negro was arrested the following day in Lula.

In a statement to the jury, Daniel declared the shooting occurred accidentally during the scuffle with Stein for the latter's pistol.

Stein was a popular member of the Athens police force and had served several years.

## MURDER SUSPECT DIES FROM WOUNDS

The death of James Brewster, 39, of 160 Fourth Street, N.E. early Friday at Grady Hospital, marked the seventh killing of the new year among colored people.

Brewster, suspected of the murder last Saturday night of Miss Amelia Smith, 27, of the same address, was wounded by Detective Leo Nahlik

when Brewster is alleged to have made a lunge for him with a knife.

The bullet from the detective's gun pierced the suspect's chest. He was arrested at the Grady Clinic after lying with the dead woman. Later he was turned over to Detective Nahlik and Coppenger, who carried him to the basement quarters of the dead woman.

Brewster was shot while the officers examined bloody clothes which had been hidden under the dead woman's bed.

He denied killing the woman.

Johnson possession a pistol at the time he was stuck in the head with the ice pick. A son of the defendant declared that he saw a brother of Russell remove the pistol after the slaying. Carvie had been felled.

The argument was started when Johnson objected to one of the victims whispering to his wife. An effort by the defense was made to prove that Carvie Russell, one of the dead, had on his

Johnson, a father of several children, stabbed the two men at his home following an argument with several men. The fatal wounds were inflicted after a woman is alleged to have broken a kerosene lamp, putting the house in complete darkness.

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## Slayer Gets 1 To 5 Years For Double

## Slaying Of 1936

## LEWIS JOHNSON TO RECEIVE TERM SENTENCE TODAY FOR STABBING

Carvie Russell, the jury recommended sentence of one to five years.

Lewis Johnson of 363 Jackson Place, Monday evening was convicted by a superior criminal court jury for the double slaying of two men with a pickaxe on December 18, 1936.

The verdict was returned at 5:40 p. m., after the jury had deliberated the fate of the defendant one



Killings-1937

# First Killing Of 1937 Is Recorded

GEORGIA RECORD OF 1936

The city of Atlanta, last Saturday night, was the scene of the first killing of the New Year as well as the identity of the victim was veiled in a cloud of mystery.

## 120 Fulton Murders Recorded for 1936

Five persons were indicted for murder yesterday at the first regular session of the January term of the grand jury at which 17 true bills and four no bills were returned. At the last session of the November-December grand jury last week, six defendants charging murder were returned.

In a preliminary check of the county police records it was revealed that more than 120 murders were committed in Fulton county last year. The majority of these involved negroes. In 83 murder cases court during 1936 83 murder cases were tried. Of this number, 18 were acquitted; 47 convicted, 66 not prosecuted and 12 entered guilty pleas.

Murder in 1936 was returned yesterday with the following names: Benton was charged with the murder of John Jinks; G. W. Carter was indicted for the alleged murder of John Roper; John Davis was charged with the alleged slaying-murder of "Sonny Boy" Gilbert; Mozelle Hackney with the alleged fatal slaying of Jimmie Baynes and Henry Walker with the alleged fatal cutting of Eugene Brown.

## NEGRO GETS 20 YEARS AFTER PLEA OF GUILTY

Joe Wright, 40-year-old negro, was sentenced to serve 20 years by Superior Judge Hugh M. Davis yesterday after he had pleaded guilty to a voluntary manslaughter charge. He was indicted for the murder of a white man in the basement of a tenth street residence on July 3.

The hog stealing career of Will Gay, 35, was ended, at least temporarily yesterday when a Fulton superior court jury found him guilty and he was sentenced to serve from six to twelve years. County Policemen Fred Bradford and W. L. Duncan, who trailed Gay for over a week, testified he would kill a hog in his pen, cut off the portions he desired and take them home.

## 3 ATLANTA NEGROES ARE MURDER VICTIMS HERE IN SINGLE DAY

Two Men Are Stabbed to Death; Third Is Shot Through Heart.

Murders took the lives of three Atlanta negroes yesterday, police reports reveal.

Gilbert Martin, 30, alias "Sonny Boy," was found dead in bed yesterday morning in his home at 752 Py-lant street, N. E. He had been stabbed with a knife in the left temple. Police are seeking a negro named John Watts in connection with the case.

Martin's wife, Emma Lou Martin, told police Watts and her husband quarreled when Watts accused Martin of slapping his wife.

Although stabbed in the heart with an ice pick, Eugene Brown, of 374 Hilliard street alley, staggered to Grady hospital early yesterday morning, where he died several hours later.

He told police he was stabbed during a fight at 392 1-2 Old Wheat street. Five negroes were arrested on suspicion, investigation of murder, in connection with the case. They were listed as Johnnie Mae Blake, 22; Corrine Jones, 30; Lelia Wimbley, 27; Harry Blake, 20, and Dewey Wimbley, all of 392 1-2 Old Wheat street.

Found lying in front of 387 Peter street with a bullet in his heart, Will James Matthews, 23, of the Pittsburgh community, was pronounced dead on arrival at Grady hospital early yesterday morning.

A negro woman listed as Lee Cruse, of 320 Humphries street, was also wounded slightly, in the left leg. Police are seeking a negro known as "Little George," of the Mechanicsville section, for questioning in the case.

## NEGRO AT ATHENS SENTENCED TO DIE

Willie Frank Daniel Is Convicted of Slaying Police-man Stein.

ATHENS, Ga., Jan. 13.—(AP)—Willie Frank Daniel, Athens negro, was convicted in Clarke superior court today for the slaying of Policeman Herman Stein and was sentenced to die in the electric chair at Milledgeville on February 18.

The jury deliberated 25 minutes. Judge Blanton Fortson pronounced sentence immediately after the verdict was read to a crowded courtroom.

The trial opened yesterday morning. The policeman was fatally shot on November 29 while attempting to arrest Daniel as a burglary suspect and died several hours later. The negro was arrested the following day in LaGrange.

In a statement to the jury, Daniel declared the shooting occurred accidentally during the scuffle with Stein for the latter's pistol. Stein was a popular member of the Athens police force and had served several years.

## MURDER SUSPECT DIES FROM WOUNDS

The death of James Brewster, 30, of 160 Fourth Street, N. E., early Friday at Grady Hospital, marked the seventh killing of the year among colored people.

Brewster, suspected of the murder last Saturday night of Miss Amelia Smith, 27, of the same address, was wounded by Detective Leo Nahlik.

Brewster is alleged to have made a lunge for him in a fight at 392 1-2 Old Wheat street. The bullet from the detective's gun pierced the suspect's chest.

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He denied killing the woman.

Johnson, a father of several children, stabbed the two men at his home following an argument with several men. The fatal wounds were inflicted after a woman is alleged to have broken a kerosene lamp, putting the house in complete darkness.

The argument was started when Johnson objected to one of the victims whispering to his wife, one witness said. An effort by the defense was made to prove that Carvie Russell, one of the dead, had on his possession a pistol at the time he was stuck in the head with the ice pick. A son of the defendant declared that he saw a brother of Russell remove the pistol after Carvie had been felled.

# Slayer Gets 1 To 5 Years For Double Slaying Of 1936

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# 11TH KILLING 13th Killing OF 1937 IS RECORDED Is Recorded

## Young Woman Stab Victim At Corner Of Cain, Butler LOOK FOR MAN

The eleventh colored killing of the year was recorded here Friday morning with the fatal stabbing of Miss Daisy McNear, 20, of 240 Cain Street, N.E. Removed from the corner of Cain and Butler streets by ambulance drivers, the young woman died in the Grady hospital clinic at 10:23 o'clock three minutes after she had been placed under medical attention.

Hospital attaches said the woman died from numerous stab wounds of the body. She was unconscious when admitted to Grady and was listed as an unknown.

Acting on the report of various witnesses, policemen and detectives launched a search for a man listed as Curtis Wood, 27, of 248 Currier Street.

According to police witnesses who admitted seeing the woman chopped down by the suspect were:

Warren Johnson, 25, of 183 Butler Street, N.E.

Edith Wingfield, 18, 180 Valentine.

Margaret Wilson, 38, of 238 Cain Street, N.E.

## Man Shot Just Above Heart Dies Almost Instantly

### MAKE ARREST

A man listed as Neal Milner, 33, of 118 Vine street, NW, was fatally shot early Tuesday morning at the corner of Martin and Sims streets, allegedly by Robert Harrell, 34, of 688 Coleman street, SW. The bullet lodged in Milner's left shoulder above the heart and caused almost instant death.

Harrell, who summoned officers to the scene of the shooting was quoted as saying he was on his way to work when Milner accosted him and went through the motion of pulling a pistol from his pocket. The two men grappled and when Harrell freed himself, he shot the alleged attacker.

The victim walked to the opposite side of the street and fell to the pavement. Harrell told Patrolmen J. H. Langley and H. D. Henshaw that he followed Milner and would have assisted him to his feet, had not passers-by advised him not to touch the victim until police arrived.

Questioned by the officers, Harrell said Milner had been hanging around his house during the night. "He even threatened to shoot me," Harrell stated.

Mrs. Beatrice Harrell, wife of the alleged slayer, told officers that Milner had been hanging out in the basement of the Piedmont hotel where she is employed as an elevator operator, trying to talk to her. He was put out of the basement on two occasions, she is reported to have said in a statement to police.

Harrell was taken into custody and questioned by City Detectives Hildrebrand and Taylor.

Harrell is said to have walked half a block to a telephone and notified police of the shooting, then officers who arrived at the scene shortly after the gun-play said they were unable to find any sort

of a weapon.

Coleman Grimmatt, a paper boy who resides at 152 Beckwith street, is reported to have informed the policeman that he conversed with Milner at the corner of McDaniel and Mary streets several minutes before the shooting took place.

Grimmett declared Milner showed him a black .32 caliber pistol, which Milner stated he had used the past night in shooting a man at a gambling game. Milner said he was leaving town. Grimmatt told the officers.

The death of Milner gave Atlanta its 13th colored killing of the year.

## NO ARRESTS FOR FATAL SHOOTING

## Dennis Bowen, Victim Of Shot Week Before Also Passes Away KILLINGS 14, 15

Shot in the abdomen late Saturday night, allegedly in front of his residence, a man listed as James Moody of 320 Markham street, died a few minutes after being admitted to Grady hospital.

Police and detectives were ordered to arrest a man by the name of Otis Wise, who according to witnesses, shot the victim with a shotgun. No arrest is reported.

Dennis Bowen, 26 of 81 Martin avenue, shot in the stomach last Sunday night, allegedly by robbers on West Hunter street near the Booker T. Washington high school, died at Grady early Saturday. Bowen told the WORLD last

Monday that he was walking home when two men appeared from a dark hideout and demanded his money. The victim said he was shot when he reached into his pocket to get his pocketbook.

"They must have thought I was reaching for a pistol," he said. The passing of Moody and Bowen marked the 14th and 15th colored killing in Atlanta this year.

Charles Gay, 19, of 106 Jephtha street, who was stabbed in the back with a knife late Saturday, was given emergency treatment in the Grady clinic.

Two people were being held on "suspicion" and another was sought by police Saturday in connection with the shooting Friday night of Miss Jennie White, 19, of 312 Butler street. The woman was admitted to Grady to be treated for gunshot wounds of the stomach.

Lucille Shanker of an unknown address was sought for the shooting and Steve and Lotta Dickson of 265 Pine Place, apartment 6 were taken into custody for questioning.

The shooting occurred at the corner of Butler and Harris streets, police said.

## WHITE MAN ACCUSED IN SLAYING OF NEGRO

DUBLIN, Ga., Feb. 27. Albert Morris, white, today was held without bond in the Johnson county jail at Marietta on a charge of murder, following a preliminary hearing in the slaying of a negro, Dan Lord, several weeks ago.

Sheriff W. B. Howland, of Johnson county, said he was told Morris went on a drunken rampage, allegedly shot Lord and threatened a white storekeeper before he was apprehended. Lord died two days later, declaring he knew of no reason why he had been shot, the sheriff reported. Morris will be tried at the March term of Johnson superior court.

## '37 KILLINGS ADVANCE TO NINETEEN

Shot in the rear of Schiefelk street address late Tuesday afternoon, a man listed as Cleo Coleman was dead on arrival at Grady Hos-

pital. Detectives were assigned to investigate the shooting immediately after the crime was reported to the police department.

The death of Coleman pushed the number of colored killings for the year to 19. Last year this time only 11 persons had been killed.

Admitted to Grady Hospital in serious condition Tuesday evening was Lewis Mathews, 53, of Jackson, Ga. He had been stabbed in the abdomen.

## KILLINGS UP TO EIGHTY

Fatally stabbed in the neck late Monday morning at the corner of Kennedy and Long streets, Raymond Graham, 33, of 477 1/2 Kennedy street, N. W., died before reaching Grady hospital.

According to investigating officers, who found the man lying in the dust surrounded by a crying crowd, Graham was stabbed by Carl Ellis, of the same address, who allegedly interfered when the victim attempted to stab his wife, Mary. Witnesses stated that the woman was threatened for a considerable period of time and finally rushed by the victim with his opened knife when he grabbed him and during the scuffle allegedly thrust the knife blade into his neck. Ellis immediately fled the scene.

Mary Graham was detained Monday as a material witness in the case.

Police Monday held Will Greene, alias "Small Town", 28, of 33 Butler street, in the Sunday stabbing of Thomas Johnson, 21, of 273 Auburn avenue, N. E. Greene is said to have admitted the stabbing after officers trailed and caught him. The stabbing took place before the Butler street address. The "admitted" stabber turned a knife over to Lieutenant's office, which was said to have been used in the affair.

Mary Auburn, 19, of 602 Ferry street, Monday afternoon, was treated at Grady clinic for several cuts of the left forearm and small lacerations of the forehead and nose.



Killings - 1937

Georgia

# Son Kills Father Early Tuesday; Gives Self Up

Say Wife And Youth  
Went To Return  
"Drunk" Home

## 55TH OF YEAR

The 55th colored killing of the year was recorded early Tuesday, police reported during the week.

The additional homicide came with the fatal shooting of George Anderson, 40 years old, of the rear of 451 Houston street, NE, apartment 21.

**55** Shot in the right eye and right side by a blast from a shotgun, allegedly at 448 Irwin street, NE, the victim died before hospital assistance could be offered.

In jail Tuesday charged with the murder was Willie Anderson, 20 years old, listed by arresting officers as the son of the dead man. The suspect walked into the police station Tuesday morning, several hours after the shooting and confessed, detectives said.

The shotgun employed by the assailant was reported found in an alley in the rear of Anderson's living quarters. The shooting occurred at 12:01 o'clock Tuesday morning, records revealed.

Mrs. Annie Cobbs, 41 years old, of 448 Irwin street, NE, was in the house when Anderson was fatally wounded, arresting officers declared.

An account of the shooting as listed by police and detectives showed that the deceased, an alleged habitual drinker, had rented a room for the night at the Irwin street address when his wife and son located him and attempted to return him to his home. Mrs. Walter Mae Anderson, the wife, fled from the room after her husband is alleged to have beaten and threatened her. On leaving the room, she heard the shot.

Police on arriving at the scene of the shooting, found the dying man seated on the floor, his back propped against the bed. A pool of blood surrounded him.

He had been locked up many times for being drunk. Mrs. Anderson is alleged to have told the investigating officers.

**SHOT BY NEGRO,  
FARM YOUTH DIES**  
*Condolition*  
**Second Victim in Dublin**  
*Row Improving.*

DUBLIN, Ga., July 11.—(P)—A. J. Page, young farmer of near Rockledge, died in a hospital here today of bullet wounds Chief of Police E. C. Pierce said were inflicted by an unidentified negro following an argument on a busy downtown street last night.

Laman Smith, also of near Rockledge, was wounded by the negro, Chief Pierce said, but he was not believed seriously hurt. He was reported improving tonight.

The chief said Smith told him a negro ran into him, Page and a companion and they had words with him. Another negro, Smith was quoted by the chief as saying, then shot them.

# HEART STAB FATAL TO WOMAN

*early word*

**Mrs. Jennie Mahone  
Dies In Ambulance  
Bound For Grady  
CLIMAX OF FUSS**

Murder on Auburn avenue was committed around daybreak Saturday morning when Mrs. Jennie Mahone, 34 years old, was stabbed to death, allegedly by a 22-year-old man listed by police as Johnny Hobbs.

Stabbed in the heart with a knife at her home, 323 Auburn avenue, NE, the young woman was dead before an ambulance could convey her to Grady hospital. She was pronounced dead on arrival around 4:50 a.m. by Dr. H. L. Moore, of the Grady staff.

**57** An argument over a drink of corn whiskey led to the fatal stabbing of the Auburn avenue woman, investigating officers said.

Radio Patrolmen R. E. Finley and C. P. Wright of city car number 13, said they learned from witnesses that the affray started when Hobbs insisted he had paid for a ten-cent drink of liquor which Mrs. Mahone declared she did not receive payment for.

Wearing green suit, white shoes, yellow tie and blue shirt, Hobbs fled the scene with another man known only as "Jack" following the stabbing, it was understood. Detectives Johnson and Taylor, assigned to investigate the murder, said they had been told that Hobbs worked at the Wisteria Garden on Peachtree street. The suspect had not been arrested at a late hour Saturday evening.

Two persons were being held as

material witnesses to the crime. Inlar bone, slanted downward and jail Saturday were Charlie Swift, 27 years old, of the rear of 24 Crumley street, and Miss Louise Palmer, 20 years old, of an Auburn avenue address.

Listed by police as witnesses to the homicide were Frank Booze, 60 years old, of 268 Raspberry alley, Elsie Beck, 23 years old, of 323 Auburn avenue, NE, Swift and Miss Palmer.

Police had been unable to find the knife used in the stabbing of the woman. Swift, according to witnesses, accompanied Hobbs to Mrs. Mahone's home.

Detectives said they were told that Hobbs, Swift and the mystery man known only as "Jack" were employed at the Wisteria Garden.

According to information obtained by the World from the Sellers Brothers funeral home, Mrs. Mahone was the mother of two daughters of this city, Misses Lizzie Mae and Inez.

Other relatives listed by Sellers Brothers are four sisters and one brother, Mrs. Johnnie Ellerson and Mrs. Bessie Owens, of 230 Dunlap street; Mrs. Inez Mahone, of Bell and Green streets, Mrs. Will Chambers, of Manchester, Georgia, and Frank Peters, of 230 Dunlap.

The funeral will be held Tuesday at Wavely Hall Georgia, from the Salem Baptist church. Interment will take place in Salem Hill cemetery. The funeral services are in charge of the Sellers Brothers funeral home of this city.

## POLICE KILL NEGRO TO STOP WILD SHOTS

**Slain After Saying 'You'll  
Have To Blow Me  
Down.'**

A negro, brandishing a revolver and shooting wildly, was shot and killed last night at Fair and Kelly streets, where officers were rest after telling officers "now you'll have to blow me down." Henry Ford, 47, of the rear 151 Woodward avenue, was the negro, was pronounced dead on arrival at Grady hospital. He had been shot twice by Patrolman Dewey T. Barge. The first shot entered just above the right col-

der. The second bullet struck in the middle of the forehead. Henry Smith, 42, of 202 1-2 Chestnut street, who was walking on Fair street when the shooting occurred, was struck in the right leg by the bullet which passed through Ford. He was taken to Grady in the ambulance with Ford.

Radio Patrolmen Barge and E. S. McCray received a call to Fair and Hill streets. Arriving, they found Ford shooting wildly. Bullets pierced the car of Lee Gilley, whose business address is 452 Edgewood avenue. The owner was forced to duck to avoid being hit. Officers commanded the negro to cease firing and surrender. He refused and Barge fired.

# HUSBAND IS SOUGHT IN SLAYING

*Atlanta World*

**20-Year-Old Woman  
Fatally Stabbed  
On Westside  
56TH KILLING**

Police and detectives early this morning were seeking James Tillery, about 26 years old, to question him in connection with the fatal stabbing late Sunday night of a woman believed to be his wife.

Dead on arrival in a private ambulance at Grady hospital was Mrs. Mazial Tillery, 20 years old, of 830 Mitchell street, S. W. She had been slashed with a knife about both arms and wrists and stabbed in the lower part of her neck.

Detectives were notified that the stabbing occurred about 8:45 o'clock at the corner of West Hunter and Jephtha streets. Radio

**56**



patrolmen of city car number 21 which was reported caused by a said they had been unable to .lo- butcher knife.

Investigating officers said they learned that Mrs. Tillery was cut to death after returning from church. Her alleged husband, who is said to have just completed a chain gang sentence, met the victim shortly after she reached home, it was stated.

It was reported that the two people were separated. The passing of Mrs. Tillery gave Atlanta its 56th colored killing of the year.

PARADE LEAVES  
BLOODY TRACKS  
AS AFTERMATH

Crime went on a parade during the week end and left blood stains as evidence that it had passed by. Miss Mary Silver, 25 years old, of 619 Travis street, NW, was stabbed near the corner of Fox and Dalvigne. She was cut with a knife in the left side of her abdomen and forehead. At Grady hospital where she was treated, she named her assailant as Robert Jackson.

Norman Beasley, 23 years old, of 504 Ennis alley, number 4, was in a serious condition, suffering from a head wound. He declared that Mrs. Vixie Green, 29, of 11 Electric avenue, number 5, dropped a big lump of coal on his head from a second story window. The woman was jailed and held on a "Suspicion of assault and battery charge."

She declared that Beasley came to her home, asking for her husband. Learning that Mr. Green was not at home, he asked for unidentified man, whose stabbed body was removed early Monday morning from the corner of Auburn avenue and Fort street to Grady hospital where death occurred several minutes later.

Mrs. Green said Beasley was drunk, frightening her to the extent of running from the house for aid. While she was out, Beasley went into her kitchen and stole some food, she said.

As he left the house, she admitted dropping the lump of coal on his head.

Allegedly stabbed by his common law wife, Annie Lou Kelly, on Auburn avenue around 1 o'clock Monday morning.

B-McDaniel street, was Jim Chandler of the Chandler funeral home was quoted by in-

The woman said Lowe came into the house in a drunken condition, started an argument and lunged at her with the butcher knife. She said he dropped the knife when she clouted him with a broom handle. It was then that she picked up the knife and stabbed him, she told investigating officers. Slashed from hip to hip with razor was Chester Foster, 33 of 34 Highland Street, NE. Apartment two.

## Knives, Guns Used As Victims Topple Over Atlanta Area

REGARD FOR LIFE  
APPEARS LITTLE  
AMIDST SPURGE

Steam from Atlanta's pot of crime raised the lid long enough during the week end to account for four colored killings.

One of the victims was felled by a policeman's gun. With the occurrence of these killings, the 1937 total was lifted to 60.

Dead Man Not Known Latest of the victims was an unidentified man, whose stabbed body was removed early Monday morning from the corner of Auburn avenue and Fort street to Grady hospital where death occurred several minutes later.

Stabbed in his heart, allegedly by an assailant who employed a knife as a weapon, the unidentified man slumped to the sidewalk of 151 Woodward avenue, SE, was shot and fatally wounded Saturday

investigating officers as saying he saw a companion, who was walking with the wounded man, run after the victim toppled to the pavement. Stabbed in his heart, the dead man's body was being held in the Grady morgue, pending identification.

Gun Victim Dies Harold Chester, 25 years old of 72 Woodward avenue, SE, died, at Grady late Sunday night. He was shot as he stepped from his back door.

Chester and witnesses accused Tom Reid of the same address. They said he fired several pellets into Chester's body.

The suspect is alleged to have shot his victim after saying, "What was that you said about killing me?"

Police said there were three witnesses to the shooting. Andrew Sanks, 19, 70 Woodward avenue, SE. Margaret Reid, 18, of the same address, and Frank Colliers, 24, of 151 Moore street, SE.

Officer Kills One Although not considered a homicide by police, a man listed as John Henry Ford, 42, of the rear of 151 Woodward avenue, SE, was shot and fatally wounded Saturday

night by Radio Patrolman D.T. Barge. The officer said Ford was running amuck with a gun.

City Detectives Johnson and Taylor had not apprehended Monday, a man listed as Johnny Hobbs, who was accused of the killing on Saturday morning Mrs. Jennie Mahone, 34, of 323 Auburn Avenue.

The woman was stabbed in her heart when she is alleged to have accused Hobbs of drinking a ten cent drink of liquor without paying for it.

Funeral rites for the deceased will be held today from the Salem Baptist Church at Wavely Hall, Ga. She was the mother of two daughters and the sister of five.

WOMAN DIES  
OF STAB  
WOUNDS

61st Victim Of Year  
Was Cut With A  
Butcher Knife

FIVE WITNESSES

Stabbed with a butcher knife early Sunday morning, a woman listed at Grady hospital as Marcaline Franklin, of 487 Stonewall street, died Tuesday morning.

Her death moved the number of colored killings for the year to 61 and the fifth in four days.

Police are holding on suspicion a man who gave his name as John Doyle, 49 years old, of 487 Stonewall street. Witnesses told detectives they saw Doyle stab the woman with the knife and then flee from the house.

During their investigation City Detectives learned that Doyle and Miss Franklin were engaged in an argument when Doyle threatened the woman with the butcher knife. She is alleged to have raised a chair to defend herself and was slashed with the weapon while she held the chair poised in the air.

Five people witnessed the fatal stabbing, arresting officers said.

Four Being Held

In Negro's Death  
White Men Surrender Voluntarily at Dawson

DAWSON, Ga., Aug. 11 (AP)—Sheriff J. H. Turner said he was holding four white men today in connection with the death of a Negro farm hand.

The Negro, listed by Sheriff Turner as Will Gatewood, 29, died Saturday.

The sheriff said he listed the four men in custody at A. D. Henry, Sid Herrington, Alton Fleming and Wilbur Timmerman.

They surrendered, the sheriff said, when they heard warrants had been sworn for them.

The sheriff said he received a report the Negro before death said he had the altercation over a small debt.



Killings-1937

Georgia

# COLORED KILLING LIST 71 IN CITY RISES TO TOTAL OF 69

## Alleged Colored Slayer Of White Victim Is Sought

Youthful murderers held the spotlight in Fulton county Tuesday and Wednesday.

69 A pistol shot allegedly delivered from the pistol of a 16-year-old boy, whom the victim had asked about the theft of a handkerchief, late Tuesday night fatally wounded Robert Scott alias "Buck Wheat," 18, 517 Irwin St., NE. Scott was shot in the chest near the heart, shortly before midnight, Grady records showed, and died during the early morning hours.

Arrested for the fatal deed SEEK 'SHORTY' FOR MURDER was Johnny Cleveland Hill, of City authorities late Wednesday were seeking an alias "Shorty" as the killer of Jeff Kurkendall, white, of 615 Griffin Street, N. W., late Tuesday night. They were alleged to have been standing at the corner of Julian and Bankhead streets around 11:30 P. M., talking when Kurkendall was dismembered by a circling switchblade knife. He died in a Grady hospital ward later.

COLLEGE PARK MAN SLAIN Eugene Thomas, 15, of a College Park address, was in Fulton County Tower Wednesday charged with the Tuesday slaying of Frank Harden, 30.

According to College Park officers, the youth killed Harden when the latter reprimanded him against smoking a cigarette. A commitment hearing was waived by the alleged slayer. The Fulton County grand jury is expected to investigate charges of murder in its Friday session.

# 71 KILLINGS THIS YEAR

The death of John Henry Scott, 42, of 9433 Renfro St., at Grady hospital late Thursday night constituted the 71st colored felonious killing of 1937.

According to records.

8-21-37  
Scott was shot in the right side of his abdomen early Saturday morning, July 10 as he was about to enter a boarding house at the Renfro Street address. Employed by the and W. P. company, the wounded man informed detectives that several boys followed him to the house and each of them fired the shot was fired. He reasoned that the youths had planned to rob him.

Columbus, Ga., News Record  
August 6, 1937

## A Chattanooga Paper's Comment On Speedy Justice At Columbus, Ga.

(An Editorial in the Chattanooga Times)

TWO Negroes charged with killing a man at the Fair Grounds in Columbus, Georgia, last Friday night, faced trial five days after the slaying. Judge C. F. McLaughlin, of the Muscogee County Superior Court, assigned three members of the Columbus Bar to defend them, and preparations for the trial went forward without delay.

On the day before the Fair Grounds slaying, a Columbus woman was killed and a man held for murder will go on trial for his life eight days after her death.

Remarking that the promptness with which the Court is handling homicide cases "is to be highly commended," the Columbus News-Record adds:

The community was particularly outraged by the brutal murder at the Fair Grounds last Friday night. Sentiment was strong for the prompt and vigorous handling of the cases by the due processes of law, and this is being done. The judge, the solicitor general and the grand jury acted on the cases at the earliest possible moment.

It is commendable that the machinery of the law has been set in motion so promptly to give immediate and fair trial to those charged with these crimes, and to see that justice be dealt in the light of the sworn testimony.

In Chattanooga on June 21 a woman alighting from a bus was struck down by an automobile and killed. Arrested, the motorist obtained a continuance over the protest of the State, argument offered in behalf of the motion for a delay being that the defendant would lose a week's work if he had to appear in court on any day other than Friday. When the time of continuance had expired, on July 1, the defendant waived preliminary hearing and some days later he was indicted for manslaughter. No trial date was set, and none can be set until the Court reconvenes in September. A period of several weeks between the return of the indictment and the Court recess was allowed to pass without action in the case.

On April 20 another motorist killed a pedestrian. Two continuances were granted; the first, because the State was unprepared. On July 31, the defendant was convicted of manslaughter and sentenced to three years in prison. He

is now free under bond, pending disposition of the motion for a new trial.

In the Columbus cases, the Court has considered that promptness is entirely consistent with fairness. It is not considered necessary to drag out action for three months or more to be sure justice is done. In those cases the Court carried out in practice the principle enunciated by Attorney-General Peabody Howard when he protested against granting a delay for the motorist who couldn't come to court any day except Friday. Said Mr. Howard: "If this man is innocent, he should want to be so proved at the earliest possible moment. If he is guilty, the State should have a speedy trial and conviction."

# 730 KILLING IN ATLANTA RECORDED

## Fuss Over Parking Of Car Given As Cause Of Death

## NONE ARRESTED

8-25-37  
Atlanta's 23d Colored killing was recorded Friday morning with the death of James Kemp, of 537 Stonewall Street. Kemp was admitted to Grady hospital with a serious stab wound of the abdomen Thursday and died Friday morning at 7:50 o'clock.

73 Detectives of the city department were working on the case last evening, but said that they only learned the stabbing came as the result of an argument of the parking of an automobile. No arrests had been recorded, it was reported.



# SEEK INDICTMENT OF "MURDERER"

The Fulton County Grand Jury will be asked today to return an indictment of murder against Frank Hawkins for the October 10 killing of Alonzo Griggs. The victim was fatally stabbed at a Hill street address. Griggs' death was the 36th colored killing of the current year.

## 86 Homicides Up To 87

Atlanta's 87th homicide for the year was registered late Saturday night. Officers arrested Willie Clemmons, 26, of 1078 Cascade Avenue, S.W., for fatally wounding Guss Bloss, 30, of an Ashby street address near Ashby Place. Bloss was shot in the right chest.

Eye witnesses who gave their names and addresses to police officers declared that the victim and his assailant engaged in an argument after which Clemmons suddenly disappeared. He returned with a shotgun and blazed away at the victim, police learned.

Clemmons was treated at Grady hospital for a badly lacerated head which he claimed was the result of an assault by the deceased with a soft drink bottle. He claims the laceration was inflicted before he was shot and that he had procured the gun after Bloss had threatened him with a knife. After the shooting Clemmons called a taxi and fled the scene. He told officers that he tossed the shotgun out of a car window between Chicamauga avenue and Chapel road on the north side of Hunter street. A careful look by officers failed to locate the weapon, police records showed.

Bloss was removed to Grady hospital where he was pronounced dead upon arrival. Ivey Bros. are in charge of the body.

### Man Found Bleeding

Police officers answered a call to the basement of a 64 Boulevard N.E. address and found William Harrison, the colored janitor employed

there, lying in bed in a pool of blood, a large hole knocked into the back of his head. In a semi-conscious state when found, the man complained of severe pains in the stomach. Manager J. W. Punket said he found the man in the condition recited at 7:35 o'clock Sunday morning and officers arrived at 7:40.

Will Davis was brought to Grady with a gunshot wound in his right leg. He said he was shot by someone just as he returned home after the purchase of groceries. Shot while standing on the front porch, he declared he did not know who his assailant was. His wife, however, told investigating officers that Davis had accidentally shot himself while cleaning a pistol. He was treated at Grady and dismissed.

Will Jackson of 543 Stonewall street was carried to Grady by Will Cox after sustaining a stab wound in the left chest. He declares that he was attacked while standing in an establishment at the intersection of Chapel and Stonewall streets.

Nathan Brown was treated at Grady for a gunshot wound through his left knee which he declares was administered by Adolphus Jackson of 995 Primrose street. The affray occurred at 12:45 a.m. Sunday. Brown was treated and dismissed.

Officers answered a call to the intersection of Butler and Decatur streets and met John Stokes of a 76 Fort street address who claimed that he had located the woman who, Saturday night, had stolen his groceries. He indicated the location as being 28 Piedmont avenue where officers arrested Rosalie Jackson, alias Rosa Harris and charged her with larceny. The case is set for 2:30 P.M. today.



Killings - 1937

Georgia

## Summerhill Man Slain Saturday; Numerous Stabbings Reported

Saturday night was one of the busiest nights of the year for Grady clinic attendants as one killing and a large number of serious stabbings and shootings were reported.

Colonel Miller for 1937 number 63 was recorded in the evening with the death of Grover Gaither, of a Pulliam street address. Gaither was pronounced "dead on arrival" at Grady, and doctors said he died of stab wounds of the right chest and abdomen.

According to police records, Louise Gaither, 22, of 264 Raspberry Alley, the victim's wife, and Curtis Berry, 22, of Rear 632 Pulliam street, were taken into custody shortly after the incident and are being held in City Jail on "suspicion of murder." Arresting officers reported that Louise admitted to stabbing her husband, claiming that he advanced on her with a knife and cut her on the arm. She is alleged to have said that she stabbed him once, but an examination by physicians showed that there were

two stab wounds. Witnesses to the incident told officers, according to reports, that there were two other men in the fight and that they were seen running away from the scene of the crime after Gaither claimed that she did not know any fell mortally wounded. One of the men running away appeared cut, it was said. After a check at Grady hospital, it was found that Berry was being treated for a stab wound of the chest. Upon questioning, he is alleged to have admitted that he was at the scene of the fight and tried to separate the fighters when he received the cuts. Police, however, arrested both Berry and the Gaither woman and are holding them on suspicion of murder. Other victims in Grady hospital

wards suffering major injuries late Saturday night included: Mae Julie Reid, 49 Hallen street, who was shot in the neck and chin; I. B. Nelson, 687 State street, stabbed in the left chest; Lucy Williams, Rear 269 Rawson street, stab wounds of the chest; and Evelyn Macafee, 889 Edgewood Avenue, stab wounds of the body.

## 26-Year-Old Woman Is Killed

A murder at the corner of Hilliard and Fain Streets early Saturday morning accounted for Atlanta's 67th Colored killing of the current year.

According to police records, Charline Jordan, 26, of 57 Woodward Avenue, SE., was fatally wounded at 1:15 a. m. as she stood chatting with her sister, Minnie Carter. Taken to Grady, the Jordan woman died at 3:15 a. m.

It was reported by the deceased woman's sister that a man who lives at a Lamar street address came up and fired a pistol, the bullet landing in the right chest of the victim. The Carter witness claimed that she did not know any of the principals. Officers stated that they were unable to get any further information as the gun wielder fled the scene of the shooting.

## Woman Gives Up In Death Of Dennis

Homicide number 68 was registered in the Gate City late Saturday

day night when a man listed as Monroe Dennis of 89 Courtland street, succumbed to a butcher knife wound in the abdomen at Grady hospital.

According to police records, a woman who gave her name as Nellie Mickens gave up and stated that she had just killed the deceased man. Minnie Curry and Charlie Curry were reported as being witnesses to the affray, which happened in front of 89 Horton street.

## Bradley Dies Of Shot In Abdomen

Death of Clarence Bradley, of 10 Raspberry alley, Thursday at Grady Hospital moved the number of colored killings in Atlanta this year to 62.

Bradley was shot in the abdomen Sunday. When admitted to Grady Hospital he is alleged to have said he was shot when he attempted to walk through a crowd of people at the corner of Tracer and Clark Streets.

Investigating officers reasoned that he might have been the man thought wounded by policeman as radio patrolmen reported opening fire on an alleged automobile thief.

## Laurens Man Held In Negro's Death

Delma Mimbs Testifies He Shot  
at Passing Car

DUBLIN, Ga., Aug. 8.—Sheriff I. F. Coleman said tonight that Delma Mimbs of near Minter was in Laurens county jail awaiting trail for slaying John Wesley Moore, Negro, on a highway near Minter last Sunday.

Sheriff Coleman said Justice Palmer W. Hicks bound Mimbs over to the superior court Saturday after a hearing in which Mimbs testified he fired at Moore's automobile in an

effort to keep it from colliding with his own.

Mimbs testified he fired the shot as the Negro's car passed his on a narrow, muddy road, Sheriff Coleman said, just after Moore's car had narrowly missed hitting an automobile driven by Bertis Graham. Mimbs denied intention of shooting anyone.

The shot struck Moore in the head and he died last Sunday night.

## THE SMITHS HAVE TROUBLE

Three of Atlanta's numerous Smiths had trouble Thursday, according to Grady reports, and settled it with knives and ice picks.

Records disclosed that Louie Smith, 45, of 344 Eads Street, was treated for an ice pick stab of the right thigh; Edgar Smith, 27, of 126 Woodward Avenue, a stab wound of the left side of the neck; and Mary Smith, 20, also of the Woodward Avenue address, for laceration of the neck, reported incurred with a big, heavy knife.

## ANOTHER KILLING

Grady hospital revealed Thursday that Alma Lee Starr, of 193 Peter Street, died late Tuesday of stab wounds of the abdomen. The Starr woman was admitted to Grady last Sunday in a serious condition. Her assailant is unknown.

## LOTTERY SUSPECT BOUND OVER

Walter Weathers, 22 was arrested Thursday by Detectives J. B. King and John Crankshaw, on lottery charges and bound over to criminal court of Fulton county under \$100 bond.

Weathers while loading a truck became suspicious to the detectives, who after making investigations, discovered that he was not engaged to unload the truck. After finding a sack containing about 35 lottery books that had been thrown in the truck, the suspect was arrested.



# Theft Suspect Held After Fracas In Which Cafe Owner Kills Negro

Piece of Barbecue Is Cause  
of Fight Ending in  
Shooting.

A former wrestler early yesterday used his ring tactics to rescue his 21-year-old wife from a negro theft suspect who was beating her and later was forced to shoot and kill another to protect his meat business.

Mrs. Clyde Nichols, wife of Charles B. Nichols, the former professional wrestler, was in the front of her lunchroom at 448 Fraser street, S. E., when Millard Sherry, 20-year-old negro, of 605 Fraser street, entered and attempted, she said, to leave without paying for a piece of barbecue.

## Grapples With Negro.

The young woman grappled with the negro when he tried to leave without answering her question about paying for food.

A 12-year-old negro delivery boy, Leon Gilbert, gave Mrs. Nichols a blackjack when it looked the negro would escape her. She struck Sherry on the head with it, knocking him through the glass door. Angered, the negro pulled her from the lunchroom into the street with him. Leon then gave Mrs. Nichols a gun, which she fired wildly twice.

The shots brought her husband. **Blackjack Used.**

"About that time another negro appeared out of the night from goodness knows where," Mrs. Nichols said. "When we had been struggling the gun had gone off three times and my arms were all burned. Charlie got there about the time the second negro appeared. Charlie hit Sherry over the head about 15 times with the black-jack. When we saw a fight was coming on with the second negro, Charlie killed him."

"We dragged him (police identified the negro as Henry Wood, 20) back up the block to the store and he lay stretched out on the floor until the police came. The body was sent to the undertakers and then Charlie and I went to Grady hospital for treatment. When they brought me home I was so nervous that I thought I could never have a moment of peace or rest again."

## Killed Instantly.

Detectives were told Wood threw a brick at Nichols and was about to throw another when the former wrestler fired once, the bullet striking Wood in the mouth, killing him instantly.

Nichols was booked on a technical charge of murder and will be



MRS. CLYDE NICHOLS.

tried in recorder's court at 8:30 o'clock Thursday, Detectives D. L. Taylor and Morgan Johnson said. Sherry was arrested on suspicion for investigation.

Accounts vary as to the necessity of shooting the second negro, Detective Taylor said.

## DUAL SLAYING BROBED BY OFFICERS

CEDARTOWN, Ga., Aug. 6.—Deputy Sheriff William McCown and other Polk county officers investigating the case when Charlie hit Sherry over the head about 60 years old, whose body was found Wednesday lying beside a road coming on with the second negro, in a sparsely settled section of Polk county. Both had been killed by gunshot wounds to the head.

A coroner's jury returned a verdict of "death by party or parties unknown."

Sheriff McCown subsequently arrested two negro men on suspicion but later released them.

# Commonlaw Wife Sought In Death Of Will Edwards

Stab Wound Under  
Left Arm Fatal

To Victim  
Daily

Fatally stabbed once under his left arm in the side early Tuesday morning, a man listed as Will Edwards, of 314 Cain Street, N.E., was the 76th Colored person killed in the Atlanta area in 1937. Police sought his commonlaw wife, Charlie Holbrook, 30, of 53 Bell street, became Atlanta's 75th homicide victim at 5:50 Sunday morning.

Investigating officer He was rushed to Grady hospital where he died upon arrival. The bullet entered the left arm, went through the left shoulder, and lodged in the right shoulder. Two arrests have been effected in connection with the murder. Eddie Harris, of 321 Scofield street, called officers and gave himself up after confessing to the act.

"Evelyn knocked on the door of my room," said Manuel, "and asked for a loan of \$2 to return to Will for rent Monday. My wife gave her the \$2. Later my wife stated she heard Evelyn say, 'Here is your money, so get out!'"

"They were still fussing out in the hall in the dark," the witness continued, "and my wife told me to see what was the matter outside. When I went out in the hall, Evelyn was in her room and the victim was folded over and stated he was cut."

Manuel is then said to have taken the victim to Grady in his car where he died approximately twenty minutes after reaching the hospital site. The woman assailant is believed to have been carried to Grady and has not been seen since.

Around 7:45 A. M., officers were called to 321 1-2 East Ellis Street, where they talked to Ben Grier, who said he had found a butcher knife, a white skirt and woman's tan blouse in the alley back of the garage. The items which were covered with blood, were believed to belong to Evelyn Edwards helping him but had run away. They were turned in to Lieutenant's office as evidence in the homicide.

# Police Hold 2 In Connection With Sunday Murder

the station house Sunday by officers. Investigation disclosed that the youths had stolen soft drinks, a pistol, 2 batteries, chewing gum, candy, and cigarettes in considerable quantities. Those arrested and charged with burglary are: Fred Jackson, 605 Tenth street, N. W., 12; Charlie Denton, 323 Highland street, 14; Jimmie Dykes, 541 Davis street, 13; and Leric Faniel, 852 Sycamore street, 14. Officers detained Leric Faniel, 22, of 852 Sycamore street, on a charge of receiving stolen goods. He allegedly admitted ownership of the pistol stolen by the pillaging youngsters.

Officers arrested Buzzie Reid alias Duke Reid, in connection with the case at 8:30 a. m. Sunday at 288 Decatur street. He was booked on suspicion of murder.

## Watch For Escapee

Sheriff Hogan of Warrenton, Ga., wired city officials to be on the lookout for a colored man, Jesse Johnson, 27, who grabbed the sheriff's gun in the Sparta, Ga., jail and escaped. He stole an automobile (1933 Chevrolet coach) and was only recently returned from Detroit where he had been apprehended, and faced with a murder charge. He made his getaway at approximately 1:40 p. m. Saturday night, it was said.

Police swooped down upon Wil Butler in the act of carrying a sack of coal from Southern Railway cars near the Southern shops. He claimed a Walter Shannon of Macon, and another man called Tad were helping him but had run away. Officers found nearly 2 tons of coal close beside the shop where Butler was apprehended.

Five youngsters were detained at



Killings-1937  
6

Georgia  
6

# Dead Man, 60, Is Believed To Have Been Rob-Victim

# Patrolmen Say Woman Admits Murder

## Janitor Said To Have Carried Money Sack; Police Report Pockets Were Emptied

Believed slugged and then robbed, Lee Ellington, 60 years old, of 731 Virginia Circle, NE, was found dead early Monday morning in the front yard of 755 Pylant Street, NE.

Police reasoned that the man had been struck with a blunt instrument and then relieved of his money.

Officers reported finding the to have been under the influence of liquor.

buckled and said the pockets of

of his pants had

been turned wrong

side out. They

were unable to lo-

cate a money sack

and a large bunch

of keys which Ellington was

known to have carried attached

to his belt.

A Mrs. Medlock, white, of 731

Virginia Circle, the dead man's

employer, told investigating offi-

cers that Ellington always carried

his money sack and the large bunch

of keys attached to his belt. The

resided in the basement of the

of the Virginia Circle dwelling.

Police concluded that after El-

lington's assailant hit him on the

forehead with the blunt instru-

ment, he was robbed and left

staggering in the street. Ellington

is believed to have felt his way

to 755 Pylant street, NE, where he

collapsed and died.

The police department was noti-

fied of Ellington's death by Mrs.

Charlotte Clark, of 755 Pylant

street, NE. She said she saw the

man in her front yard after notic-

ing a passer-by stop and gaze into

her yard.

Officers quoted J. H. Hight, 40,

of 747 Pylant street, as saying El-

lington visited his place of busi-

ness Sunday night, and appeared

A 28-year-old woman, Mrs. Johnnie Mae Glenn, of 128 Chestnut avenue, NE, was arrested Thursday afternoon and booked at City Jail on "suspicion of murder."

admitted taking the life of her husband, Robert Glenn, 52 years old, around 4:30 p. m. Thursday.

The arresting officers quoted the suspect as saying she killed her husband because she found him in bed with her 16-year-old niece, who lives at the same address.

Robert Glenn died almost instantly as the result of stab wounds of the chest and throat. He was punctured twice with an ice pick, Patrolman Nash said.

Mrs. Glenn, who exhibited wounds on her back, which she said was the damage done to her when her husband cut her with a knife, received treatment in the Grady clinic before officers carried her to City Jail.

Patrolman Nash had in his possession the knife and ice pick alleged to have been used in the affair.

The death of Robert Glenn moved the colored killing total for the year to 108.

Free - For - All Ends In 109th Murder Of '37

Another colored killing was written Friday on the blue book a City Police Station. The instant death late Thursday night of William Brooks, 30, of 25-A Key-stone alley, SE,

marked the 109th Negro killed in Atlanta this year

by means of violence.

Brooks died of a stab wound of the heart. He was reported stabbed at the corner of Woodward and Terry streets.

Police and detectives started a search for Russell Long of 363 Connally street, SE, who according to eyewitnesses, engaged in a free-for-all with Brooks and several others, when Brooks is alleged to have attacked a girl in the company of Long.

## Death Pushes Atlanta Homicide Total Up Another Notch; Wife Is Held

Christmas day was barely two hours old when Willie Abron, alias George Davis, 27, of 149 1-2 Chestnut avenue, died at Grady hospital of a stab wound. The passing of the knife victim moved the colored killing total for the year to 112.

Alleged to have confessed taking the life of Abron, Mrs. Ruth Abron, 31, of Gay Ga. was in jail Saturday night awaiting a hearing before the grand jury Tuesday morning.

Under police guard at Grady hospital Saturday night was the sister of the alleged killer. She was listed as Miss Martha McGee, also of Gay Ga. When dismissed from Grady hospital where she is under treatment for stab wounds of her back, Miss McGee will be held as a material witness in connection with the slaying.

Willie Abron was stabbed in the right thigh around 1:05 o'clock Saturday morning. He expired forty minutes later at Grady hospital from a loss of blood. Hospital attaches said the artery in his thigh was severed.

The fatal knifing occurred at the corner of Cain and Jackson streets, police reported. The body was removed from the Grady morgue to Hanley's funeral home on Bell street.

Following her arrest, Mrs. Abron was quoted by officers as saying she had been separated from her

husband, the deceased, for one year. . . she left him because he tried to demoralize her 12-year-old daughter. . . she stabbed him Christmas morning when she caught him on the rear seat of his automobile in an improper position with her 22-year-old sister, Miss Martha McGee. The dead man was stabbed in his thigh before he could get out of the position in which he was found. . . Miss McGee was stabbed twice as she attempted to get out of the car.

Mrs. Ruth Abron suffered a slight stab wound on her thigh during the melee. Arresting officers said they found Miss McGee sprawled in the street at the intersection of Cain and Boulevard.

KILLINGS UP ONE NOTCH

Davis Street Man Is Fatally Wounded; Cause Unknown

Although Atlanta's homicide

104

108

112

Man Pursuing Another Is Killed

106

109



# Young Woman Fatally Wounded By Slug Reported Intended For Unidentified Man

record for 1937 is more than half a score behind the count of 1936, the total continues to move ever nearer last year's figure. James Weems of 166 Davis Street N.W. became homicide victim No. 113 on Sunday afternoon. Investigation by police officers established the fact that the deceased was dead on arrival at Grady.

Maggie Tooley of the same address informed that she saw Tooley

Atlanta's colored killings for the year stood at 111 Monday night.

113

The name of the latest homicide victim written in the police blue book was Miss Emma Freeman, 25, of 15 Solomon street SE.

found him under the edge of the house resting on his hands and knees. An ambulance was summoned but the man wounded in the left side of the chest, was dead when Grady attaches carted him in.

The young woman was fatally shot Sunday evening at 17 Woodward avenue. SE investigating officers declared.

A search was started for a man listed as James Smith 23, who is alleged to have fired into the Henry Pascha, 27, of 213 Lon. Woodward address. The slug from don Lane, NE, was stabbed by a the gun was intended for an unman whom he knows only as identified man, witnesses told of "James" after an argument. He was rushed to Grady.

Held as material witness in the killing is Miss Jessie Robinson, 17, of 17 Woodward avenue.

**Two Whiskey Cases**  
Police noticed a small boy riding a bicycle with a suspicious bag across his shoulder. The boy dismounted, dropped the sack and fled when hailed. Police discovered three cans of whiskey in the bag and confiscated the bicycle.

Police, Monday had identified a man stabbed to death Saturday on Peters street as Robert Whitehead, 33, of 351 Gemunden street. Two men were arrested in connection with the fatal stabbing.

Police also chased an automobile driven by James Davis who jumped from behind the wheel and fled as the car crashed into the curb. Officers gave chase and caught the fleeing man. He was arrested on whiskey charges and the car detailed to Spider Garage and marked "Hold for Whiskey."

City detectives started a search Monday for a man known as James Strickland, 35, of 941 Smith street, SW, to question him in connection with the shooting of Miss Cora Bell Brown of the same address.



Killings- 1937

Georgia.

# SLAIN MAN KILLED BY OFFICER, BELIEF

Willie Dennis, 35, of a Yonge Street address, was believed the victim of police shots early Tuesday morning when his body was found later on Randolph Street with a bullet hole through the right side of the chest. At a late hour Tuesday evening, it had not been positively determined as to whether or not Dennis was the man shot at by officers allegedly attempting to question him concerning moves termed as "suspicious".

According to police reports, around 2:40 A. M. Tuesday Lieut. Davis and L. A. Puckett had parked their patrol car and were watching a store at Glen Irish and Highland Avenue, when a man came "tipping" down Howell Street, acting in a suspicious manner, looked about awhile, and "tipped" back up the street. Later the officers heard dogs barking in the rear of a Highland Avenue address, they said, and with the elapse of a few moments, saw the man come "tipping" back.

The policemen are reported to have given a "stop" command which attracted the man's attention. "Something shiny" was said to have been drawn by the man from his pocket as he came nearer the police car. It was then, the police state, that the man was fired upon and chased. He was lost between houses in the run they said.

Near 5:30 A. M., Officers Burdett and Scott discovered the body of a man wearing an old pair of overalls, jumper and a cloth (rail-road) cap before a Randolph St. man stated and fired the fatal

address. A search of the dead man's pockets revealed a small screw driver, two wrenches and a kitchen knife. Upon contact, Lieut. Davis and L. A. Puckett came to the scene and stated the man was dressed similarly to the one shot at earlier in the morning. The man was pronounced "dead on arrival" at Grady by Dr. Chambers of the Grady staff.

Witnesses identified the man as Willie Dennis, once an alleged burglar and auto thief.

# ROBINSON IS KILLED BY BAKER

Says He Was 'Bullied'  
Threatened; Forced  
To Fire On Man  
SELF-DEFENSE

Pronounced "dead on arrival" at Grady hospital Saturday night, Hal Robinson, address unknown, was shot completely through the upper chest and left leg when he allegedly entered the home of a Southern Railroad fireman and caused disturbance.

According to Luther Baker, of 341 Corporate street, N. W., who did the shooting with his prize automatic shotgun at his home, Robinson, called a 'bully' in circles of his habitat, had brought a woman and drinks into his home against his will. He stated in an interview prior to being booked at police headquarters, that he tolerated the run drinking for a while, but that when a small amount was missed, Robinson became angry and drew his knife, threatening to kill him in advance. It was then that he drew the almost new shot gun, the fire-

road) cap before a Randolph St. man stated and fired the fatal

# NEGRO SHOT TO DEATH DEFENDING GIRL,

Because he resented attempts of another negro to "make love to a nine-year-old girl," Fred Pinson, 40, of 521 Tattnall street, was shot to death early yesterday on High street near Tattnall, the police reported.

Thomas Brown, negro, 26, of 539 Tattnall street, who was shot in the left arm at the time Pinson was slain, told officers the fatal fusillade was fired by Rollie Oliver, 40, of a Fair street address. Emory Oliver, brother of the alleged killer, was also being sought last night for questioning.

# DEATH OF NEGRO HERE LAID TO POLICE BULLET

A negro identified as Henry Larkin, alias Milkie Dennis, 40, was found dead from a gunshot wound in his chest at 2193 Randolph street early yesterday, and police identified him as the victim of a policeman's bullet.

Police Lieutenant J. H. Davis and Patrolman L. A. Puckett reported they saw a negro approach a grocery store on Glen street about 3:30 o'clock yesterday morning. Puckett ordered him to hold up his hands, and when he failed to do so, fired. The negro fled, and a chase followed in which the officer fired again. Two hours later police were notified of the finding of the body.

# CORONER TOLD OF ARGUMENT OVER SALARY

Case Against Milton Jackson,  
26, Held for Grand Jury,  
Being Completed

# STORY OF CRIME RELATED

# Victim Had Rehired Accused Man After Husband Dis- missed Him Last Week

ATLANTA, May 30 (P)—Detectives assembled evidence today which they said indicated Milton Jackson, Negro chauffeur, killed his employer, Mrs. Adele Fluker, and fired her suburban home in a dispute over wages of \$1.50.

County Patrolman Jack Carroll quoted the squat, 26-year-old Jackson as saying: "I'm sorry I did it." He was arrested in the Flukers' new motor car on a downtown street last night two hours after firemen, summoned by a neighbor, found the charred and beaten body of Mrs. Fluker, 50, the wife of a machinery salesman, in her kitchen pantry.

Coroner Paul Donehoo said her husband, Richard M. Fluker, had dismissed Jackson a week before when the Negro purchased liquor with \$1 which he had been given to buy painting material.

Mrs. Fluker rehired him. "I Took Jack Back" She left word of it in a note to her husband:

"Dick—I took Jack back." Patrolman Carroll said the Negro told him he had asked \$1.50 for his work about the newly purchased home Saturday and Mrs. Fluker—citing the dollar he spent—declared it was "excessive."

Carroll said Jackson made a statement that he struck Mrs. Fluker with a hammer, stabbed her, crammed her body in the pantry and set fire to the home, spilling a bucket of fuel about so it would gain headway quickly.

Funeral at Augusta Arresting officers said he was drunk when they picked him up. A coroner's jury ordered him held for grand jury action Tuesday. It found that Mrs. Fluker was killed by blows and "by being set fire to and that these were done by Milton Jackson."

Funeral services for Mrs. Fluker will be held at 10 a.m. tomorrow in Augusta, Ga., her former home.

Her father, the late J. P. Doughty was a cotton merchant.

Jackson was held in Fulton tower, the county stockade.

No Trouble at Jail.

Police kept a crowd from gathering at the jail, and county Desk Sergeant C. E. Lyle said he had experienced "no trouble, although I have heard rumors there might be some."

The murder was discovered when

firemen were called to extinguish the flames roaring through the Fluker home in Buckhead. Most of the house was destroyed.

Police said a blood-stained brick was found near the body.

County Police Chief George Mathieson said neighbors told him they had heard screams in the Fluker home earlier in the afternoon and had seen a Negro leave hurriedly in the Fluker car.

Borrowed Hammer Next Door.

The police officer quoted Mrs. Annie Jenkins, a next-door neighbor of the Fluker's, as saying that Jackson borrowed a hammer from her during the morning.

Fluker returned home to see his house in flames and watch his wife's charred body carried away to the funeral home. He was hysterical.

A member of a pioneer Augusta family, Mrs. Fluker before her marriage about 32 years ago, was Miss Adele Doughty.

Surviving her are her husband; two children, Mrs. J. R. Newton and Jim Fluker, of Atlanta; her mother, Mrs. Doughty, of Augusta; four sisters, Mrs. May McCutchen, and Mrs. J. M. Farmer, of Augusta; Mrs. Frank Dorr, of New York City, and Mrs. Andre De Cuyas, of Chicago; and two brothers, J. P. Doughty, Jr., of Augusta, and Le Garde Doughty, literary editor of the Augusta Chronicle.

# Chestnut St. Man Fatally Wounded

James H. T. Jones, merchant, of 47 Chestnut street, died of pistol bullet wounds at Grady hospital around 8 a. m. Wednesday giving to Atlanta its 40th colored killing of the current

year, and marking the second mysterious shooting-slaying of a group merchant within the month of May.

Jones was admitted to Grady hospital around midnight last Saturday, and was reported in critical condition at the time. He told officers that he had just closed his store for the night and was getting ready to enter his residence when he heard a gun fire and felt the sting of the pellet. The wounded man stated that he could not tell where the shot came from or who shot him.

Detectives are working on the few clues they have been able to muster up in an attempt to clarify the mystery.



# Unidentified Man

## Stabbed To Death

Allegedly stabbed by a woman rival, an unidentified man died from a stab wound of the chest this morning about 1 o'clock, W. L. Dunn funeral home officials reported.

Picked up at the corner of Davis and Hunter streets by Harper and Smith of the funeral firm, the victim died enroute to Grady hospital.

The man, who was described as being about 38 years old, was unconscious when reached by the ambulance drivers.

The death gave Atlanta its 41st colored killing of the year.

**39TH KILLING IS LISTED BY LAW**

The Saturday night fatal stabbing of Willie Jones, of a Lamar Street address, marked the 39th colored killing for the current year in the Gate City. Jones was pronounced "dead on arrival" by clinic attendants, and is thought to have passed en route to the hospital. The knife made apparently pierced the heart as it passed into the left chest.

**42ND KILLING OF YEAR IS LISTED BY CITY POLICE**

The second victim of two mysterious shootings on Sunday, May 23, died at Grady hospital Tuesday morning, marking the 42nd colored killing of 1937. The other died last week.

According to Grady reports, the victim Benny Gates, of 501 Wilmer Street, had varied in general condition since the May 23rd shooting when his abdomen was punctured.

Police records indicate that Gates was shot early in the day by a man reported of a Highland Avenue address, following an argument between the victim, his estranged wife and the assailant. It was stated that a man listed as Rutherford, and alleged to be a witness to the affray, told police that he was in bed and upon hearing the argument, he raised his window just in time to see the shooting. He said that the assailant fled the scene immediately afterwards.

Another witness, Fred Wells, who resides at a Wilmer Street address, told police that he overheard Bessie Gates, wife of the victim, tell Gates that she was going to have him killed before day break. It was not stated at police headquarters as to whether there has been an arrest in the case or not.

**CONFESSION MADE IN TORCH KILLING, OFFICERS REPORT**

**Indictment for Slaying To Be Asked Tomorrow of Fulton Grand Jury, Says Assistant Solicitor; 2 Others Being Hunted.**

**TRIAL IN 2 WEEKS TO BE REQUESTED**

**Hammer, Freshly Dipped in Paint, Found in Garage; Empty Purses Recovered From Bedroom.**

Milton Jackson, 35-year-old negro, has confessed the brutal slaying of Mrs. Birdie Fluker, Desk Sergeant Charles E. Lyle, of Fulton county police, told The Constitution yesterday.

Sergeant Lyle said Patrolmen John Carter and Jack Carroll had reported to him an oral confession had been obtained in the presence of themselves and three Fulton county deputy sheriffs.

**Report Substantiated.** Patrolman H. H. (Tiny) Green also informed The Constitution that a confession had been obtained. He added that Jackson implicated another negro, who is now being sought for questioning. Jackson's wife, to whom he allegedly gave a knife, is also being sought, Patrolman Green said.

Jackson, a former chauffeur for the Flukers, was taken into custody three hours after Mrs. Fluker was bludgeoned to death in her newly purchased Peachtree Hills home Saturday afternoon. After the killing, her slayer saturated her body and the house with an inflammable liquid and applied a torch.

The residence was practically destroyed and Mrs. Fluker's body, crammed in a pantry and charred badly, was found in ruins of the home at 106 Roanoke avenue.

**Inquest Held.** Obtaining of the alleged confession preceded an inquest yesterday morning at Spring Hill, conducted by Coroner Paul Donehoo. Following the inquest, Jackson was ordered held for murder.

Assistant Solicitor General Ed A. Stephens, of Fulton superior court, announced he will seek a first-degree murder indictment tomorrow before the Fulton county grand jury, and that he will move for a trial two weeks from that time, the earliest date possible on the court calendar.

The inquest lasted two hours, and a new development came when Patrolman Claude Webb, of Fulton county police, testified he found a hammer near a paint bucket in the garage of the Fluker home. He testified that the hammer had been freshly dipped in white paint.

Lieutenant Jim Ragsdale, also of Fulton county police, testified that he found two purses, both empty, in the Fluker home. He said he found one on a dresser in a bedroom and another in a corner of the room.

Testimony was also given by R. M. Fluker, husband of the slain woman, who stated that Jackson claimed he (Fluker) owed him 75 cents in connection with some work done around the house.

Fluker said that he gave Jackson money to buy certain materials, and that Jackson failed to get one item. Fluker said he then told him to keep the money, which would have paid for the item, to consider the sum as pay for labor.

The negro still insisted, however, that Jackson owed him 75 cents, Fluker reiterated.

Mrs. W. S. Compton, who lives around the corner from the Fluker home, on Penandoah avenue, testified she saw Jackson leave the Fluker home in the Fluker car a short time after she had heard screams coming from the house.

Other testimony was given by firemen who fought the blaze at the Fluker home, and by Lieutenant M. B. Petty and Patrolman U. G. Oakes, who arrested Jackson at Mitchell and Davis streets when the negro crashed the Fluker car into a telephone pole.

Jackson is under heavy guard at Fulton tower.

Funeral services for Mrs. Fluker will be held at 10 o'clock this morning at St. Patrick's church, Augusta, with the Rev. Father Leo M. Keenan officiating. Burial will be in Augusta cemetery.

**KILLINGS UP TO 78 AS 2 ARE SLAIN**

**Wife Is Witness To Fatal Stabbing Of Husband**

**CRIME SOARS**

Colored killings in the Atlanta area went soaring to new heights Thursday with two reported dead of violent causes.

Stabbed Tuesday afternoon at his home, Henry Wilbur, of a Lambert Street address, passed at Grady hospital Thursday morning at 7:20 o'clock. Investigating policemen later arrested Jack Myers, 36, of 443 Lambert Street, as the fatal stabber. Wilbur's wife reported that Myers stabbed Wilbur at their home during a fight. She was the lone eyewitness, it was stated.

A dead man picked up by an Ivey Brothers Ambulance on Alpine Pl. proved Atlanta's 78th Colored person slain this year. Though police received the call Wednesday night, it was not positively verified until Thursday that the man was Henry Prather, of 155 Raymond Street, S.W. Prather apparently died of a stab wound in the jugular vein. He was pronounced dead on arrival at Grady following transportation there by an Ivey Brothers ambulance.

An alias "Long Buddy", of a Mangum Street, S.W., address was sought as the fatal stabber of Prather, though police knew little about the case.

**More Stabbings** A woman known only as Gladys was sought by police Thursday in the early morning stabbing of Louise Harris, 20, of 157 Chappel Street, S.W. The Harris woman was given treatment for a stab wound in the left of the neck at Grady and dismissed, it was stated. According to the victim and witness, Gladys jumped on the assailed because she was out with her sweetheart the night before.

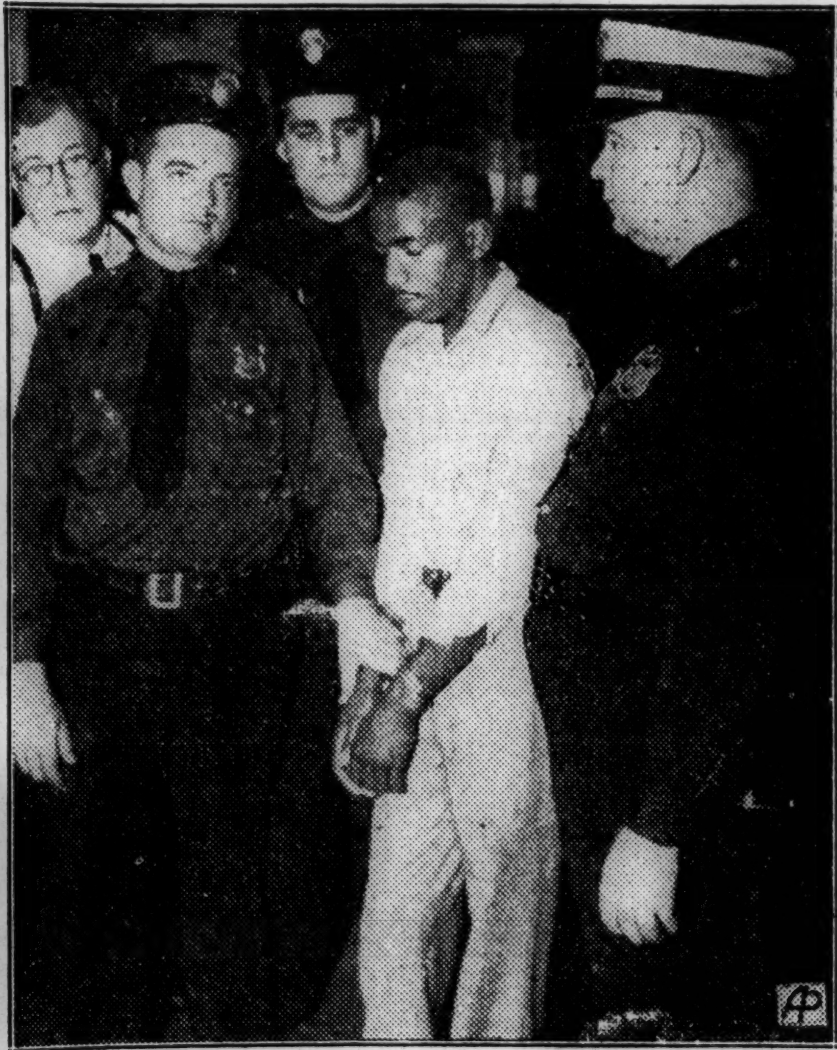
Bessie Walker, 23, of 171 Butler Street, was in custody of police Thursday charged with stabbing in the left side of the neck Lucious Chandler, 21, of 210 Jackson Street, N.E., Apartment 2. The stabbing is said to have taken place at the corner of Butler and Clifford Streets following an argument between the two. A charge of disorderly conduct "stabbing" was booked.



Killings-1937

Georgia

## Funeral Held at Augusta For Torch Murder Victim



Shortly after the murdered body of Mrs. Birdie Fluker, 50, was found in her burning home in Atlanta, police arrested the Fluker's Negro chauffeur, Mitchell Jackson, in connection with the crime. The Negro is shown in jail. Officers said the slayer fired the home in an effort to conceal the crime. (A. P. photo.)

AUGUSTA, Ga., May 31 (AP)—Funeral services were held today for Mrs. Birdie Fluker, whose burned body was found crammed into a kitchen pantry in her Atlanta home by firemen Saturday.

Fulton county (Atlanta) police arrested the Fluker's Negro chauffeur, Mitchell Jackson, and held him in jail pending grand jury action.

Mrs. Fluker's father was the late J. H. Fluker, an Augusta cotton merchant. Her husband, R. M. Fluker, is a salesman for an Atlanta machinery company. A brother, LeGarde Daughtry, once lived at Savannah, and Mrs. Fluker and her husband once lived at Long View, Texas.

Writes Wife in Macon

Fulton County Patrolman Jack Carroll quoted Jackson as saying he worked at the Fluker home the day of Mrs. Fluker's death and asked for \$1.50 for his work, and she said it was excessive.

Coroner Paul Donehoo said Fluker dismissed Jackson a week ago after a dispute over a dollar and Mrs. Fluker rehired him.

Deputy Sheriff Emmett Quinn said he believed the motive for the killing was "robbery and drunken revenge."

Quinn said Jackson wrote his wife and his mother at Macon last night. The deputy sheriff said Jackson wrote his wife in part: "I am a murder of Mrs. Fluker, the lady I

was working for." Quinn said Jackson wrote his mother in part: "I am a murder an I am jail."

Slayer Known Here

Mitchell Jackson, alleged confessed slayer of Mrs. Birdie Fluker, Atlanta matron, left Macon for Atlanta about two and a half years ago, it was learned here yesterday.

His father and mother, together with his wife and two small children, live here at 1010 Clinton road. He was employed at the old Dunlap-Huckabee Auto Company for five years, according to S. A. Baggett, 1027 Clinton road. He was also employed at Bob Stevens' filling station for a short time before he left, Mr. Stevens said last night.

Although police reports have him listed as Milton Jackson, his name is Mitchell, having been named after his father, they said.

### NEGRO IS JAILED IN BLUDGEONING OF BENEFACTRESS

*Constitution*

### Mrs. Birdie Fluker Slain, Body Crammed in Closet and New-Bought Home Burned to Ground; Body Is Beyond Recognition.

*5-30-37*

### GHASTLY PICTURE GREET'S HUSBAND

*Atlanta, Ga.*

### Chauffeur Wife Rehired Is Held as Suspect; Neighbors Tell of Seeing Him Take Family Car.

Other Pictures of Fluker Home  
Fire May be Found in Page 11-A

Mrs. Birdie Fluker, 50-year-old housewife, was bludgeoned to death in her newly purchased Peachtree Hills home yesterday afternoon. After the killing her slayer saturated her body and the house with gasoline, oily turpentine or another highly inflam-

mable liquid and applied a torch, set an inquest for 10:30 o'clock this morning. Lieutenant Butler nue, was practically destroyed and announced that a formal charge Mrs. Fluker's body, crammed in aof murder had been filed against pantry and charred badly, was the negro. *5-30-37*

There is no doubt about his guilt," the county police official rested Milton Jackson, 35-year-old said. "He beat Mrs. Fluker to negro chauffeur for the Fluker death with a hammer or a brick family. He had been seen about both and then sought to hide the house until a few minutes before his crime by burning the home. fore the fire. He had been seen There is no telling how much carrying a pail of some kind of gasoline or other inflammable liquid from the garage to the substance he poured over her house. He had been seen fleeing body as over the house. Only from the home in the Fluker car he, himself, probably will ever and he was in the car when he known *Atlanta, Ga.*

Clothing Blood Spotted.

Jackson, drunk or partly drunk in a solitary cell at city police when arrested, denies the killing, headquarters for nearly an hour but a lipstick, identified as belong-with a large group of policemen ing to Mrs. Fluker, was in his and newspaper reporters gathered pocket. And his trousers contained around him, he soon sweated him- large splotches of a crimson sub-self sober. However, even after stance which the police said was sobering up, he stuck to his de- the blood of the victim. Jackson nial.

admitted carrying a quantity of gasoline from the garage to the house but told his questioners that by her husband and taken back he had done this at the request of yesterday by Mrs. Fluker, obtain- ed a hammer from a neighbor an hour or two before the killing. Mrs. Fluker and he did not know why she wanted it.

There was no apparent motive for the murder, although the po- lice were of the belief that the ne- gro became enraged at Mrs. Fluker for a fancied grievance and became crazed, perhaps by drink. There were said to have been no indications of criminal assault. The hammer is still missing. A brick, matted with hair and blood, was found in the pantry near the body of Mrs. Fluker and the po- lice believe that this also may have been used in the killing.

Arrested as he drove off in the Fluker car after stopping in a store on Mitchell street near Davis street, the negro at first vehem- ently denied that he was Jack- son. Later when confronted by R. M. Fluker, the slain woman's husband; James Fluker, her son, and Mrs. G. R. Newton, her daughter, he made no effort to deny the identity. However, al- though police questioned him in relays until far into the night, he insisted that he did not kill the woman and burn her new home. Mr. Fluker, a traveling sales- man for a machinery company, returned from a week's business trip to find his new home in flames and the unrecognizable body of his wife being borne to an undertaker's chapel. He became hysterical. Mrs. Fluker's son, James D. Fluker, and her daugh- ter, Mrs. Newton, also broke down when they heard of their mother's murder.

The roaring holocaust attracted a large crowd to the vicinity of the Fluker home. Chief George Mathieson, of the Fulton county police, assumed personal command of the situation and Roanoke avenue, which is a "blind" street, was blocked off from all vehicles. After the fire was extinguished Chief Mathieson ordered a detail of police to remain on guard at the home.

Even as the firemen poured hundreds of thousands of gallons of water into the flaming dwell- ing they did not know that the burned body of Mrs. Fluker was inside. When the body was dis- covered Lieutenant Tom Butler sought to extricate it before it was entirely consumed and he was

After preliminary questioning at headquarters the negro was re- moved to the Fulton tower, where he underwent a long grilling at the hands of county officers. Al- though Coroner Paul Donehoo has

*Constitution*  
Taken to Tower.



burned severely about the armoughiy saturated with gasouine.  
and hand. "It may be that only one buc

mer's home and they told him "that something had happened across the street."

ried in it but cans for mixing paint were discovered in the garage about 50 feet from the rear of the Fluker home. Turpentine and other highly inflammable materials are used in mixing paint.



Killings - 1937

Georgia

# Billows of Smoke Mark Funeral Pyre of Murdered Matron Revealed When Firemen Stumble Across Body



*Constitution 5-30-37 Atlanta, Ga.*  
Smoke billows from the windows and roof of the R. M. Fluker home at 106 Roanoke avenue, Peachtree Hills, where Mrs. Fluker was brutally murdered and set fire yesterday by a negro. When this picture was taken, her body had not been found. A Buckhead fireman is

seen running in the front door of the modest home which the Flukers purchased two months ago. Tragedy interrupted even before they had completed interior decorations. This picture was also taken by Dave Lennox, 16-year-old student.

Photo by Dave Lennox.

## GUN VICTIM DIES AT GRADY

*Early Work*  
Slayer Says Victim  
Was In Act Of  
Stealing

### SHOT IN HEAD

*9-1-37*  
A pistol wound in the base of his brain early Tuesday ended the career of an alleged auto tire stealer on Atlanta's West Side.

According to police reports, William Malone, 23, of 484 West Fair street, died at Grady hospital after being shot before a

Greensferry Avenue address. H. D. Robinson, of 703 Greensferry, told officers that his wife awakened him when she heard someone tampering with an automobile parked in front of their home late Monday night. After securing his weapon Robinson said he went to his front door and shot at a man in the act of stealing tires, it was stated. Upon description to them, police went to Grady hospital and found Malone who had been admitted in serious condition. They had him tagged "hold on suspicion of larceny." Two witnesses who had accompanied him to the hospital are alleged to have told police that he came to their home and told them to call an ambulance, that he had been shot as he walked down the street.

A screw driver found at the scene of the alleged attempted theft is in Lieutenant's office as evidence.

Malone's death marked the seventy-fourth colored killing of the current year.

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Fulton county police are seen here looking at the hole torn in the rear of the R. M. Fluker home at 106 Roanoke avenue, Peachtree Hills, through which Mrs. Fluker's burned and battered body was brought

by firemen. Police said it was in the pantry that her body was set aflame after she was slain. Shortly after the murder a former chauffeur for the Fluker family was arrested by city police.

## WOMAN IS JAILED IN CONNECTION WITH JULY 4TH KILLING IN CITY

Police wrote the name of Clifford Underwood, 34 years old, of 1048 Welch street, SW., on the homicide sheet at daybreak Sunday morning, just as a good many Atlantans were preparing to celebrate July 4.

Stabbed in the heart slashed across the chest and cut about the neck, the victim was reported dead on arrival at Grady hospital.

The badly stabbed body was removed from the back porch of 1039 Smith street, SW., investigating officers said.

Death claimed the wounded man while the switchblade knife remained imbedded in his heart, witnesses declared.

Three people were taken into custody by police. Miss Estelle Pitts, 33 years old, of 1039 Smith street, SW., said to have been the dead man's sweetheart, was booked on a charge of suspicion of murder.

Miss Erma Mitchell, 24 years old, of 1039 Smith street, SW., and Harold Parms, 27 years old, of 915 Smith street, SW., said to have been in the house with Miss Pitts when the man was stabbed, were taken to jail for questioning.

The arrested parties, according to police, said Underwood fell on the knife when he attempted to climb through a window in Miss Pitts' home. Detectives and investigating officers refused to consider that as a motive after finding

the man had been cut several other places about his body.

The stabbing gave Atlanta its 51st colored killing of the year.

## ALTERCATION RESULTS IN 50 MURDER

Half-Hundred Mark Reached With Stab Death of Brandon TWO ARRESTED

Constitution Staff Photo—Rogers.

Colored killings here this year moved to 50 early Tuesday morning with the passing of Cleve Brandon, between 35 and 40 years old, of an unknown address. He was fatally stabbed in the chest, allegedly at 487 Markham street, SW.

Police arrested Mrs. Sallie Goolsby, 47 years old, of 487 Markham street, SW., and her son, Samuel, 22 years old, of the same address, after it was learned that Samuel stabbed Brandon during an attempt to free his mother from the deceased, who according to witnesses, beat and cut the woman.

Brandon died en route to Grady hospital, police stated. On arriving to the Grady clinic, the officers found Mrs. Goolsby receiving treatment for severe body cuts and stabs.

The knife said to have been used in the affray was reported found in the possession of the suspected slayer. Young Goolsby was

quoted as saying the killing was justifiable.

Mrs. Emma Lou Williams, 23 years old, of the same address, who admitted seeing part of the bloody fight, said that Brandon and Mrs. Goolsby passed through her room about a half hour before she heard the tussle that resulted in the slaying of Brandon. She stated that both parties offered her a drink of whiskey when they passed her, but she refused.

Mrs. Goolsby in her statement to Officers McEwen and Henslee declared that Brandon broke into her room, hurled a lamp at her and then jumped on her and beat her. Her son, who was sitting on the front porch, came to her rescue when he heard the noise, she said.

Detectives Taylor and Johnson were assigned to the case.



Killings-1937

Georgia.

## Week-End Shootings, Stabbings Leave Death And Suffering In Their Wake; Victims Dead

A series of stabbings and shootings which broke loose Friday night and continued through Saturday left death and suffering in its wake.

Left in front of 315 Walker Street, S. W., by his wife who went inside a house nearby late Friday night, Ernest Williams, 29, of 331 W. Howard Avenue, College Park, a few minutes later came hurriedly and stated he was stabbed. He died a short time after being admitted to a Grady hospital ward, suffering a stab wound of the right shoulder.

Investigating police, who talked with the dead man's wife, could glean no information as to who did the stabbing, consequently no arrests had been reported Saturday evening. The woman stated that he was talking to a group of men when she saw him safe and sound last.

Seaborn Duran alias Ulysses, 33, of 405 Oliver Street, N. W., was in a Grady ward Saturday, where he suffered a serious pistol shot wound of the center abdominal portion. Shot in front of 374 Paynes Avenue, N. W., Duran told officers that a woman shooter was angry because he quit going with her.

Carrie Lee Gladstone, 19, of Rear 313 Gordon Avenue, N. E., had not quit going with her sweetheart, whom she accused of stabbing her behind the ear late Friday night in a mad rage. Carrie Lee told officers that when she came in at a late hour, her sweetheart accused her of going out with someone else, picked up a knife and cut her. She was dismissed following treatment at Grady.

Officers gained no knowledge of a suspect or a motive in the infliction of a pistol shot wound in the left leg of Mamie Smith, 17, of Rear 308 Scofield Street, late Friday night. The victim

Twenty-year-old L. M. Turner, ing a ride on the rear bumper.

of 156 Kennell street, died a few minutes after being admitted to Sheriff J. J. Griffin said that he Grady clinic Sunday did not know whether or not the night, where he had man now held for investigation been carried with a would give any assistance in solving stab wound of the murder, but that he was left breast. Witnesses leaving no stone unturned.

said Turner was a stabbed in front of the 756 Martin street address. A 26-year-old Little Street suspect was accused of the fatal deed.

Admitted to Grady hospital last Friday with a pistol shot wound of the abdomen. Seaborn Duran alias Ulysses, 38, of 405 Oliver street, died early Sunday morning. Police records showed that a Paynes Avenue, N. W., woman shot him because he quit going with her.

Part of an ice pick was left in the left shoulder of Leonard Hampton, 34, of 133 Butler street, by a man whom he became entangled over crap game results Sunday afternoon. Simon Wicker, of 131 Butler street, N. E., was arrested on suspicion of the stabbing. The victim was treated at Grady clinic.

George Gibson, 43, of 597 Carter street, N. W., was admitted to a Grady hospital ward Sunday afternoon around 2:30 o'clock, suffering a serious gunshot wound of the right eye. His wife was accused of the shooting, records stated.

Bessie Evans, 24, of 217 E. Harris street, was the victim of a knife wielder at the corner of Butler street and Harris Sunday afternoon. She was stabbed about the left chest and arm, and was in serious condition at Grady, Sunday night.

### White Farmer Dead, Negro Questioned

SYLVANIA, Ga.,—(SNS)—A colored man was held Monday for investigation of the slaying of Charlie Daughtry, wealthy Rocky Ford farmer, whose bullet punctured body was found in his car last Friday, partly hidden by bushes on a swamp road. The wallet and watch were missing.

People in the vicinity where Daughtry was found, told officers that they had seen Daughtry's car pass with a man apparently steal-

## HOMICIDE 84 IS LISTED

The 84th colored killing of the current year was recorded early Monday morning with the death of James Flannagan, of 317 Irwin Street, N.E. Flannagan died of a stab wound of the abdomen inflicted on September 24. His wife was accused of the fatal deed though the victim refused to talk to police about the incident at the time of his confinement in a Grady hospital ward.

Leroy Thompson, 37, of Rear 230 Jackson Street, was stabbed in the right side late Sunday night in the middle section of Dunlap Street, according to police reports. Admitted to Grady hospital in a serious condition, the man did not know the man who cut him. Witness said the principals had been drinking and fussing about it prior to the stabbing.

## MAN SHOT BY PATROLMAN IS DEAD

### Youth, 15, Reported Stabbed At David Howard School SERIOUS STATE

The death of Walter Brooks, of 167 Randolph street, Monday night constituted the 85th colored killing of the current year. Brooks died of a pistol shot wound of the abdomen inflicted when City Patrolman A. Douglas Poole shot him recently claiming resistance to arrest. He was admitted to Grady hospital September 16. A WORLD reporter informed by the dead man during his last days that he did not resist the officer.

A 15-year-old boy was admitted to Grady hospital in serious condition Tuesday, following his beating stabbed in the back of the left side at David T. Howard school grounds. The boy, identified as Edgar Grey, of 649 Auburn avenue, N. E., was in such serious condition that detectives did not question him at Grady. A 17-year-old Auburn avenue suspect was accused of the crime.

Willie Ed Favors, 21, of 442 Lambert street, N. W., was treated and dismissed by Grady attendants Tuesday when he went to the clinic for treatment of a gunshot wound of the left leg between the knee and ankle. Witnesses said that he and his girl friend were scuffling over a gun when it went off and the bullet struck him in the leg.

A husband was accused by his wife as having held her while "the other woman" cut her across the cheek Tuesday. The victim was listed as Edna James, 32, of 346 Magnolia street, N. W. An argument was said to have preceded in the cutting.

82

83

81

85

84

## TWO DIE IN HOMICIDAL SPLURGE

Two deaths attributed to felonious homicidal causes Sunday sent the total of Colored killings for 1937 to 83.



# WOMAN DIES OF STAB WOUND

17-Year - Old Victim  
Brings Killings To  
Total Of 88

## TREAT RIGGINS

Edna Mae White, 14, of the rear of 100 Fitzgerald avenue, was list- at Grady hospital as the victim of a stab wound. She died early Monday morning.

The death of Miss White pushed the homicide total for the year to 88. The 17-year-old woman was admitted to the hospital last Friday.

Admitted to a ward at the hospital Monday afternoon to receive treatment for stab wounds of the left chest and shoulder was Thomas Riggins, 26, of 1111 Jennings Street.

Hospital attaches were told that the victim was stabbed with an ice pick.

Cause of the two stabbings were not known.

# INDICTMENT OF SLAYER SOUGHT

Drinking Party Ends  
In 89th Fatality  
At Apartment

## REFUSED LOAN

A bill of indictment charging murder to James Starr, 24, of 138

Asbury Street, S.W., may be drawn today or tomorrow and presented to the Fulton County grand jury Friday morning.

The grand jury will be asked to indict Starr for the fatal shooting late Monday of Gus Green Pitts, 42, of 957 Michigan.

Detectives continued their search for Starr who is said to have fled the scene of shooting. Edgar Parham, 24 year old WPA worker, of 346 Bush Street, N.W., was being sought as a witness to the slaying.

In jail as a material witness is Mrs. Ruth Starr, 23, of 584 Greensferry avenue, apartment four, the former wife of the alleged killer. The fatal shooting took place in Mrs. Starr's apartment, police said.

Shot in the right hand while fleeing from the room where James Starr is declared to have killed Pitts, Mrs. Starr was treated at Grady hospital before being carried to jail.

Two shells found on the floor of the apartment led detectives to believe Pitts was killed by shots of the most gruesome killings of the year. Police listed Corneal Streger, ambulance driver for Ivey Brothers Funeral home, as saying he removed an ice pick from a pocket of the dead man's clothes. Pitts was pronounced dead on arrival to Grady hospital.

Questioned by Radio Patrolmen J. C. Hopkins and G. M. Ellis, Mrs. Starr was quoted as saying that she Pitts and Parham were at her home drinking when her former husband came there and sought to borrow a quarter. He left when she refused him the money, according to police.

The officers then quoted the young woman as saying Starr returned a hour later, shot gun hidden in one of the legs of his overalls and demanded Pitts to back up against the kitchen wall.

Starr fired at his ex-wife, striking her in the right hand, when she ran from the room, the officers stated. Parham fled also, it was stated.

Mrs. Starr is listed as telling the police she heard two other shots as she ran from her apartment.

Police reported that Mrs. Starr had been warned by a woman neighbor that James was returning said with a gun.

At Grady hospital, it was reported that the bullet struck Pitts in the left side of his chest, lodging in his heart.

The killing marked homicide 89 for this year.

# TIGHT WIRE STRANGLES VICTIM

Body Distorted By  
Brutal Battering  
Man Received  
WRISTS GASHED

The homicide squad of the Atlanta Police Department Wednesday night was faced with the problem of solving what had the distinct appearance of being one of the most gruesome killings of the year.

The body of the victim, an unknown man thought to be about 35 years old, is being held in the parlors of Chandler's Funeral home while efforts are underway to identify the deceased.

Detectives and radio policemen said a tight wire had been twisted around the man's neck, his mouth and nose battered and one of his wrists gashed.

A woman anxious to make a telephone call paved the way for the finding of the battered and bruised body. According to City Detectives Taylor and Johnson, Mrs. A. L. Evans of 389 Chamberlain Street, SE, telephoned for a repair man when she was unable to make connections on the telephone at her home.

R. W. Tibbets, white, was sent to the address to repair the phone.

He discovered a wire had been cut and on further search found the cut telephone wire tied around the neck of the dead man who had been pushed beneath the house at 389 Chamberlain street, SE, police said.

Police were notified and Radio Patrolmen Belcher and Hale answered the call with City Detectives Taylor and Johnson. Mrs. Evans said she had not seen the dead man before.

She did recall hearing her dogs barking at a late hour Tuesday night, the officers reported.

Mrs. Annie Phinezy who lives in the rear of 389 Chamberlain Street, SE, according to police reports, said she heard an automobile drive up close to her house and stop Tuesday night around ten o'clock.

The detectives in their report to Police Chief Hornsby stated that it appeared as though the unknown man was strangled to death.

Radio Patrolman I. W. Belcher described the dead man as being about 35 years old, of dark ginger cake color, about 180 pounds in weight and having very broad shoulders.

He said the man had a big scar on one side of the neck and a smaller scar high on the forehead. The victim was dressed in dirty overalls as though he might have been working in a coal yard, the patrolman added.

The unknown man had been pushed completely out of sight under the house and the telephone wire found tied about his neck appeared to have been cut with a dull knife, the officer stated.

Mr. Belcher said in his opinion the man was murdered and then carried to the Chamberlain street address by the assailant.



Killings - 1937

Georgia.

# 12-YEAR-OLD YOUTH FREE IN DEATH

## FIVE RACE MEN INDICTED UNDER ANCIENT DIXIE LAW CARD GAME ENDS IN MURDER

**Man Fatally Stabbed Believed To Be Stepfather**

**OTHERS CUT**

No case has been booked against 12-year old James Sims, of 31 Clark Street, S. E., early Saturday night, but the youth was listed as the fatal slayer of a man alleged to be his step-father.

According to Grady hospital attaches, Fred Kennebrew, 29, of the Clark street address, died a few minutes after being admitted for ice pick stabs of the left chest shortly after 8:30 P.M. Saturday.

Police records said that the lad stabbed the man when he caught him beating his grandmother at their home. Kennebrew was said to have been drunk when he proceeded to beat Sims' grandmother.

Several other cases of stabbing shooting were recorded at Grady Saturday night. They included Joseph Torsey, 19, of 83 Butler St., with stabs of the forehead and left eye; Lucy M. Taniel, 22, 284 Griffin Street, with a stab of the left thigh; Hosey Browner, 19, of 1 Boyd Street, with a laceration of the neck; and Martha Smith, 23, of 354 Robin Street, with a stab of the lower back.

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**Measure Passed During Reconstruction Days Dug Up To Avenge "Reign of Terror."**

ATLANTA, Ga., Sept. 9—Georgia once again dug up a law it passed during Reconstruction days last week, to indict five race men as members of a mob.

The action taken last week, placed Charlie Bellamy, Gus Smith, Wesley Ash, Wilson Harrell and Ben Chandler under arrest.

The five were accused by Charles Nichols, Greek barbecue stand owner, his brother, James, and Bob Slaton, white, of stoning the Greek's restaurant after Nichols had slain Henry Wood on the night of August 2. Wood had protested Nichols' brutal treatment of Miller Cherry, who was alleged to have stolen a sandwich.

**Break Up Restaurant**

Following the killing, an angry crowd of colored citizens stormed the restaurant, broke out the windows, wrecked the place and then declared a boycott, which still

Nichols has been charged with murder, but hearing has been postponed five times. It is predicted the "mob case" may follow the Herndon case to the U. S. Supreme Court.

**OFFICERS PRESS HUNT FOR NEGRO**

**Willie Barlow Jr. Sought; Father and Brother Held in Grocer's Death**

ALBANY, Ga., Sept. 27 (AP)—The search of city and county officers continued today for Willie Barlow Jr., Negro, as his father and brother, Willie Sr., and Gabe, were held in Dougherty county jail on warrants charging murder, following the fatal stabbing of Emmett B.

Jennings, Albany grocer, Saturday night.

Gabe Barlow was captured early Sunday in East Albany.

The elder Negro was apprehended Sunday on the old Tucker plantation in Lee county. One of the arresting officers stated today that the fugitive had hidden in the woods and, upon being approached, threw away a knife which was later found. Barlow admitted, the officer added, that he had attacked Mr. Jennings but alleged that he was alone and that he was acting in self-defense and stated that the knife he attempted to dispose of was the one used in fatally cutting the victim's throat.

The warrants against the captured Negroes were to be presented to the Dougherty county grand jury, which was to resume its deliberations this afternoon as superior court, Judge B. C. Gardner presiding, went into its second week.

Officer Herndon stated that three witness, two of them Negroes, had been found who would testify that Mr. Jennings, at the time of the altercation, made no threats against or attack on the three Negroes.

The funeral service for Mr. Jennings was held this morning. He is survived by his wife, two sons, McNeill and Ralph; three sisters, Miss Edith Jennings and Miss Nettie Mae Jennings, of Americus, and Mrs. H. E. Englehart, of Cincinnati; and three brothers, Cecil Jennings, of Sylvester, Edwin Jennings of Greenville, S. C., and Tim Jennings of Jeffersonville.

**Robert Lee Foster Is Held In Shooting Of Jas. Gordon 94TH HOMICIDE**

Robert Lee Foster, 28, of 637 Lester Street, N. W., was arrested early Tuesday morning in Cobb County by Fulton County Officers and returned to Atlanta where he was booked at the Decatur Street Police Station on a charge of "suspicion of murder."

Foster was caught less than one hour after the death of James Gordon, 34, of 668 Magnolia Street, N. W., who died of a gunshot wound of the chest.

Atlanta police broadcasted a lookout report for Foster immediately after investigating officers saw him leave his home in a small not give police a definite reason why he was shot in the back late Tuesday night. The wound is not serious.

Investigating the shooting around 12:30 o'clock Tuesday morning, policemen were informed by witnesses that Foster shot Gordon in front of 668 Magnolia Street after the two men had engaged in a heated argument over a card game.

Following the arrest, police quoted Foster as saying Gordon "cheated" in a card game.

Gordon's body was found across the street from 668 Magnolia in front of 1020 the yard of 661 Magnolia street. He is alleged to have staggered across the street and then fell a crowd of negroes gathered at the address and on investigating

six feet from the sidewalk into the yard.

An Ivey Brothers ambulance rushed the victim to Grady hospital where doctors pronounced him dead.

The killing marked the 94th this year.

Gordon was shot in the left side of his chest near his heart. His slayer fired three shots, but only one took effect, witnesses told police.

Queenie Mae Hardin, 15, of 668 Magnolia Street and Johnnie Mae Howard, 31, of 679 Magnolia Street, were listed on police records as witnesses to the shooting.

**City Homicide Near Century Mark For Year**

Another name was added to Atlanta's growing homicide record Wednesday morning, bringing the total for the year to 99. The latest colored killing listed at Grady hospital was that of S. M. Moore, 25, of 81 Horton street.

Records at the hospital showed that Moore was admitted November 13 to be treated for a stab wound of the heart. He died as the result of the stab wound of the heart and pneumonia, Grady records revealed.

Funeral arrangements for the deceased will be in charge of Cox Brothers. Lamar Freeman, 20, of the rear of 80 Hilliard street, N.E., was in jail Wednesday because he could not give police a definite reason why he was shot in the back late Tuesday night. The wound is not serious.

**4 NEGROES KILLED WITHIN 24 HOURS**

**Girl Stabbed Dies; Minister Seriously Wounded.**

The fourth negro homicide in the city within 24 hours was reported last night by police.

Agnes Carter, 18, of 801 McDaniel street, was stabbed in the abdomen yesterday in front of 1020 the yard of 661 Magnolia street. Patrolmen H. T. Robinson and R. E. Floyd saw a crowd of negroes gathered at the address and on investigating

found the woman in the midst of shot Sunday night by an unidentified assailant near Ashby and Beckwith streets. His condition was serious.

Others killed Sunday were Charlie Griggs, 24, of the rear 240 Forrest avenue; Luke Arthur, 1040 Sparks street, S. W., and Dan Jarrett, of Ben Hill.

The Rev. Thomas J. Roberts, 67-year-old negro minister, was

99

94



## TWO TRAGEDIES THIS WEEK

*Failure 25-07*  
We have often commented upon fatalities occurring among our people which were preventable. There are entirely too many of them. The cutting scrapes and fights among both sexes reflect in a no complimentary manner. Already this week, two persons met untimely death, one of them an innocent victim. *Failure* The recklessness of a certain class of our people is causing a reflection not easily erased. A national record of these cases is kept. The number charged against Savannah is entirely too high. There should be a curtailment of it, which can be done by less reckless action.



Killings-1937  
6

Indiana.

# GARY CITIZENS SEEKING ACTION BY GRAND JURY

*Cause 7-3-37*  
*Hillsboro, Pa.*

GARY, Ind., July 1—(ANP)—Gary residents of both races, aroused by what they term the brutal, wanton murder on June 15 of Jack McClure, by Detectives Cecil M. Lloyd and Albert Lichtenfield, have demanded an immediate and searching investigation and are bringing pressure to bear on the City Administration, which so far has resulted in suspension of the accused detectives until the conclusion of the inquiry.

Witnesses declare that on the night of the crime, the officers suspected McClure of being a man they were seeking, stopped him, told him he was under arrest—then without warning, drew out their guns and shot him down. McClure was well known in his community, was regarded as a peaceful citizen and not known to have given anyone trouble. On the other hand, Detective Lichtenfield has the reputation of being "quick on the trigger," last winter shot and killed three men as they came down a telephone pole in back of a gambling joint, after holding the place up.

The local N. A. A. C. P., headed by President Alfred Hall and James Golden, chairman of the executive board, is among the many organizations taking an active part in pushing the investigation. Their activity is being supplemented by a group of interested white citizens, among their number several eye witnesses to the shooting of McClure.

Formal charges have been brought against both detectives before the Board of Works and Safety of Gary and after the coroner's inquest has been concluded, an indictment will be asked before the Grand Jury of Lake County.



Killings-1937

Kentucky

Memphis, Tenn.

Watchman

Feb. 18, 1937

## PLAIN TALK

BY AL SEGAL

I am writing today on being a Jew courageously. By this I mean being a Jew with courage that says: "I am not afraid of being a Jew who stands in the most public places and fights for most unpopular causes even for the least of men. This is one of my functions as a Jew."

I fall into this lecturing mood on account of a man named Montjoy. Montjoy means nothing to anybody except to some people in the town in which I live. Besides being nobody at all socially, he is that which in popular prejudice, makes him a cipher minus.

Montjoy is, in short, a Negro.

Being a Negro was, in fact, his first social offense, committed, indeed, at birth. Had he not made the mistake of being born a Negro, other evils might not have befallen him. This goes to show that a man can not be too careful in the choice of parents who may give him the wrong color of skin and lead him into the wrong stratum of society.

Montjoy is at present waiting to be hanged in the State of Kentucky, in Covington. That fact in itself is enough to alienate him from the thoughts of many respectable people who certainly do not care to soil their respectability by association with a man (and particularly a Negro man) who is about to be hanged.

Still there are a few in our community (which is across the river from Covington) who have been risking their respectability for the life of Montjoy. These—Christians and Jews, university professors, ministers, rabbis and lawyers—believe Montjoy didn't get a fair trial and that he should have another chance even if his life is only a Negro's. In fact, they make the point that the fact that he is a Negro (and among the least of people) especially makes it necessary for justice to be meticulous. For, as they say, the reputation of justice is

increased as it bends to serve the weakest righteously.

There have been some Jews (mindful of Jewish respectability) who have said: "Why should Jews take a hand in this? How does it look for Jews to be seen bothering with such a matter? Jews should mind their own business."

These timorous people have felt their fears vindicated lately . . . . "What did we tell you? As we said Jews should mind their own business. When they don't, they make anti-Semitism."

The Kentucky prosecutor, addressing the court in reply to one of Montjoy's appeals, had spoken disparagingly of "Montjoy's Hebrew friends." This gave a great pain to every Jew who had said that Montjoy was no Jew's affair . . . . "Oh, how does it look for us," they exclaimed. "Here are Jews being associated by anti-Semitism with a Negro whose one foot is on the gallows. And yet when we stick out our necks we have only ourselves to blame if we get hanged."

They were quick with apologies: Did the prosecutor, they asked, take into account that Jews were in the minority on the Montjoy Defense Committee? Count them, Mr. Prosecutor! Is this fair, Mr. Prosecutor, to cast aspersions on Jews because a handful of Jews befriended this Montjoy? Oh, Mr. Prosecutor, please take into account all the patriotic Jews who never mix in hangings.



Killings-1937

Louisiana.

# WHITE LOUISIANA OFFICER SENTENCED FOR 'HONOR DEATH'

NEW ORLEANS, La., Mar. 11—Charles Guerand, white policeman, was sentenced to spend one to three years in the State penitentiary for the honor murder of Hattie McCray, 15-year-old Negro girl. Guerand was accused of killing Hattie McCray in February, 1930, as a result of her defending herself against his advances. She was at that time a waitress in a white restaurant, and Guerand was said to have repeatedly made improper advances to her, which she resented.

He was sentenced to hang, but was later committed to an insane asylum in the State.

He remained in this asylum for five years, after which time he was adjudged sane by a commission. Upon his release from the

asylum Guerand applied for bail. In this move he was opposed by the local N. A. A. C. P., of which James E. Gayle was president.

The N. A. A. C. P. succeeded in preventing him from securing bail, using Chandler Luzenberg Sr., former district attorney for the city of New Orleans.

Guerand was kept in jail for another year and a half. The last sentence of one to three years was inflicted by Judge Fred W. Oser in the Criminal District Court.

## Farm Tenant Murder Laid To 4 Whites

SHREVEPORT, La., April 10.—(AP)—The slaying of a negro tenant farmer last night in Caddo Parish alleged in a feud of negroes against white farmers of adjoining Webster Parish resulted today in the filing of murder charges by Sheriff T. R. Hughes, Caddo Parish, against three white farmers of Webster Parish and a Webster Parish officer.

The man killed was T. C. Davis, negro tenant on the place of J. C. Witness, Powell, near Blanchard, Caddo Parish.

The men charged with murder were Milton McDowell, Louis McDowell, and Alton McDowell, well-known farmers of Doyline, Webster Parish, and Earl Campbell, post marshal at

## 6 Trappers Acquitted

### In 'War' Slaying Case

NEW ORLEANS, July 28.—(AP)—Six men charged with killing a negro and a white man in a "trappers' war" were acquitted at a preliminary hearing today.

The men pleaded self defense.

The men said they believed negroes were poaching on their traps off the Chef Menteur highway near here and last Dec. 18 attempted to halt an automobile in which four negroes were riding.

They said someone in the car opened fire on them and it was returned. Levi Green, 30, was fatally wounded and George Ford wounded. Ford recovered.

The men freed today were listed as Sherwood Larkin, 30, grocer and game warden; John Larkin, 38; Charles Helma, 49; James Barker, 44; Claude Hulin, 32, and Onezime Hebert, 32.

## MONROE, LA., CITIZENS RAISE DEFENSE FUND

*Press Service of the N.A.A.C.P.*

Monroe, La., November 19.—A defense fund of more than \$400 had been raised by citizens of this town through the Monroe, La., branch of the N.A.A.C.P. up to November 12 for the purpose of employing a lawyer for Floyd Reed, scheduled to go on trial on a charge of murdering Frank Nesbit, a white grocery store owner, last February. 11-19-37

C. H. Myers, president of the Monroe N.A.A.C.P., stated that many citizens, both white and colored, believe Reed to be innocent and that white as well as colored people are contributing to the defense fund.

Nesbit was killed by a burglar who entered the grocery store and asked for cheese. Reed is supposed to have been several blocks from the store at the time of the killing but was rounded up along with others by police.



Killings-1937

Maryland

## Maryland Court Gives Negro Life For Murder; White Man, Partner in Slaying, 18 Years

After entering a plea of guilty to first-degree murder, John Thomas Dove, 36, was sentenced to life imprisonment, Thursday at Upper Marlboro, by Judge Joseph C. Mattingly, for his part in the slaying of William F. Ford, white, 35, a watchman, in a newly built home in Chevy Chase last June.

Prior to passing sentence, the court took into consideration a leniency recommendation by James Pugh, State's attorney of Montgomery County, who prosecuted.

Pugh pointed out that William H. Parr, white, 23, of Charlottesville, Virginia, codefendant with Dove, had been convicted in April of second-degree murder, and sentenced to 18 years, he said.

The State's attorney also said, "A jury from Montgomery County gave the instigator of this crime only 18 years. I recommend that the court not impose the extreme penalty."

The defense counsel had secured a change of venue to Prince George's County.

Testimony revealed that Ford was killed when a colored man, acting on orders from Parr, assaulted and robbed the watchman of his week's wages.

Four character witnesses including Robert D. Hagner, Montgomery County commissioner, who testified in behalf of the defendant.



Killings-1937

Massachusetts.

## POLICEMAN KILLS NEGRO

Resistance On Warrant Results In

### Shooting At Aberdeen

ABERDEEN, Miss., July 7. S. E. Rial, city policeman, shot and killed Leonard Griffin, negro, who resisted arrest on a warrant charging him with being drunk and disorderly.

The officer went to the negro's house to make the arrest and Griffin barricaded himself in the house. Rial fired twice and Griffin came out of the house and attacked the policeman, throwing him down.

Rial managed to get up and then shot Griffin once.



Killings-1937

## 2ND REPRIEVE GIVEN SLAYER OF NEGROES

Mississippian To Be Granted  
Sanity Hearing

JACKSON, Miss., Jan. 7.—William Clark Mitchell, 54-year-old white man sentenced to be hanged at Coffeeville Monday for the slaying and burning the bodies of two negroes in 1932 of a negro. Mitchell was granted a second 30-day reprieve today by Governor Hugh White.

Announcing issuance of the reprieve, which will stay the execution until Feb. 11, Governor White said he had requested Dr. C. D. Mitchell, superintendent of the State Insane Hospital at Whitfield, to give Mitchell a thorough examination to determine whether he is sane or insane.

Ike Stone, attorney for Mitchell, contended that Mitchell was mentally irresponsible, dating from service in the tropics with the U. S. army a number of years ago.

Mitchell was accused of robbing Lewis Bryant, an elderly negro, slugging Bryant and his son, Coot Bryant, and burning Bryant's house down on the bodies.

Bryant's wife escaped while the robbery was in progress, and identified Mitchell as the slayer of her husband.

## NEGROES HANGED FOR 'DEVILMENT' SLAYING

By United Press

WEST POINT, Miss., Jan. 20.—Two Negroes, 16 and 17, and George Phillips, 16, were hanged here today for the "devilment" murder of Herman Whitley, Clay County state sealer.

Sheila T. G. Saul, in charge of the hanging, said the negroes confessed to slaying Whitley after Owens had suggested. Let's do some devilment."

## NEGRO SLAYER'S CASE REOPENED FOR STUDY

Mississippi's Acting Governor  
Asked to Commute Sentence

HANGING SET FEBRUARY 11

White Will Return Today,  
Ending John Culkin's Ten-

ure—"Incessant Demands" of  
Veterans Cause Probe

From The Commercial Appeal  
Jackson, Mississippi, Bureau  
BY KENNETH TOLER

JACKSON, Miss., Jan. 21.—Acting Gov. John Culkin today reopened the case of William Clark Mitchell, 54, World War veteran of Yalobusha County, seeking executive

commutation to life imprisonment of a death sentence for the slaying of a negro in 1932.

"Incessant demands" of veterans organizations was given by the acting governor as his reason for reopening the case which Governor White disposed of before he left for Washington last week. Governor White denied Mitchell's plea, which was based on asserted insanity, after three state psychiatrists, headed by Dr. C. D. Mitchell, superintendent of the state insane hospital, held Mitchell to be sane.

Acting Governor Culkin conducted a hearing tonight in the executive offices on the petition.

May Decide On Case

"I will decide upon my own responsibility whether to commute the sentence or to take no action in the case," Acting Governor Culkin said.

The week's tenure of the acting governor ends about noon tomorrow with the return of Governor White.

Mitchell is scheduled to hang at Coffeeville, Feb. 11, and is said to be the second white man in history of the state to face the gallows for the murder of a negro.

In the group which petitioned the acting governor to reopen the case were Gaddis M. Williams, state commander of the D. A. V.; Malcolm L. McCraw, commander of the Jackson post; Ross Barnett, attorney, and Walter Lee, Hinds County tax assessor.

A statement signed by Dr. H. C. Sheffield, Jackson physician and Hinds County jail doctor, asserted that Mitchell is a "case of mental deficiency, imbecility and incompetent." His finds are in direct conflict with the report of the state psychiatrists, who studied the case at the request of Governor White.

White Took No Action

After the state alienists held Mitchell to be "sane and fully responsible for his acts," Governor White said he would not set aside the court sentence and that "this takes the case out of the governor's hands."

Commander Williams issued the following statement with reference to the interest of his organization: "Due to the local commander's action in this case, and due to the sentiment of veterans throughout

the state, we have employed Ross Barnett to assist Ike Stone to look after the interests of this disabled veteran, whom we know to be penniless and not responsible and unable to defend himself.

"From my information, this veteran has been absolutely dependent upon the government for the past 15 years, financially, and under supervision of his physical and personal life.

Became a Straggler

"My information further shows that the minute the government stopped its supervision over him, his judgment and responsibility to his family and as a citizen ended. Therefore, he became a straggler. The evidence in this case points to a careful plan and premeditated crime, and the fact that this veteran, William C. Mitchell, was a stranger in that county, living under the roof of his brother-in-law, Cook, who was an ex-convict, and being supported by Cook, proves in our mind that he was dominated by Cook and Cook was, in our opinion, the original brains of this crime.

"This, in our minds, was proved by the court record by the fact that Cook turned state's evidence and saved his neck at the expense of William C. Mitchell, who has never to this day even told his mother what happened."

## HANG 2 RACE BOYS BUT WHITE SLAYER GETS SECOND STAY

Miss. Acting Governor Grants  
White Slayer New Stay As  
Gov. Attends Inauguration

JACKSON, Miss., — (ANP) — While officials were working on the gallows which would take the life of the first white man scheduled to die in the state this century for the brutal murder of Negroes, Acting Gov. John Culkin Thursday night was granting the slayer, William Clark Mitchell, 54, his fourth stay of execution.

Date for execution was Feb. 11. The new stay is until April 15. Culkin yielded to pressure imposed on him by the Disabled American War veterans. The veteran of Yalobusha County, for the 1932 torch-murder of a negro. Mitchell had petitioned the governor for commutation to life imprisonment basing his appeal on asserted insanity.

Mitchell will be hanged Feb. 11 at Coffeeville, the second white man in the history of the state to go to the gallows for the murder of a negro. The first execution was in Grenada County.

## Mississippi Hangs Two Negro Youths

WEST POINT, Miss., Jan. 28. — (ANP) — Protesting their innocence almost with their last breaths, two young boys, George Owens, 17, and Joe Phillips, 16, were hanged just before daybreak Wednesday morning for the murder of Herman Whitley, white, eccentric Clay county filling station operator.

There were about 100 persons including one woman, huddled in the second floor room of the county jail where the double execution took place.

"I just want to tell you people that I am innocent of the crime expected to be presented the governor at the new hearing. The organization had three psychiatrists from the scaffold. He was the first study Mitchell's actions within the last month.

"What is done in the dark will come to light and some day after poor Owens' death and mine, you will find the murderer," said Phillips before he died. "I was home in bed when the crime was done."

The boys were convicted and given the death penalty last year for having robbed and killed Whitley at his filling station and store near West Point. Although they protested their innocence from their arrest, they were convicted, the death sentence upheld by the state supreme court and a plea for life imprisonment denied by Gov. Hugh White.

## White Rules Mississippian Must Die For Killing Negro

From The Commercial Appeal  
Jackson, Mississippi, Bureau

JACKSON, Miss., Jan. 15.—Governor White refused today to set aside the death sentence of William Clark Mitchell, 54, World War veteran of Yalobusha County, for the 1932 torch-murder of a negro.

Mitchell had petitioned the governor for commutation to life imprisonment basing his appeal on asserted insanity.

Mitchell will be hanged Feb. 11 at Coffeeville, the second white man in the history of the state to go to the gallows for the murder of a negro. The first execution was in Grenada County.

## WHITE GRANTS HEARING FOR SLAYER OF NEGRO

Condemned Man's Case Will  
Be Review April 2

From The Commercial Appeal  
Jackson, Mississippi, Bureau

JACKSON, Miss., March 19. — Governor White today granted a hearing April 2 in the case of William H. Mitchell, Yalobusha County white man, scheduled to hang April 15 for the murder of two negroes.

At a former hearing Governor White had refused to give Mitchell clemency after experts from the Mississippi Hospital for the Insane had declared the man sane.

Later, however, acting Governor John H. Culkin ordered a 60-day stay of sentence at a hearing at which testimony was offered seeking to prove Mitchell of unsound mind. This stay expires April 15.

Evidence gathered by Veterans of Foreign Wars, headed by Gaddis Williams, state commander, is expected to be presented the governor at the new hearing. The organization had three psychiatrists from the scaffold. He was the first study Mitchell's actions within the last month.

Mitchell was not arrested until 1935, when he was found living at Cuba, Mo., under an assumed name. Cook was arrested shortly after the crime, and testified Mitchell had killed the negroes. Cook was given a life sentence for his part in the crime. He died last week in the state penitentiary at Parchman. Mitchell was born in Newton County in 1882. From 1900 to 1905 he worked at Hattiesburg in a mill and in 1903 enlisted in the state national guard. He joined the regular army in 1911 and served through 1918. Six years of his army service was in the Philippine Islands.

of a negro. The first execution was in Grenada County.

In denying Mitchell's appeal, Governor White was guided by Dr. C. D. Mitchell, superintendent of the state insane hospital, and two other psychiatrists of the hospital, Dr. W. E. Clark and Dr. Frank Donaldson.

"Dr. Mitchell said that Mitchell was fully responsible for his acts," the governor said. "The superintendent was joined in the findings by the other two members of the hospital staff.

"Mitchell is not insane—he is thoroughly responsible," the governor said the report stated.

Mitchell testified at his trial that

he had periods of lapses of memory, and if he had committed the crime, he knew nothing of it. The slaying was committed in July, 1932, in Yalobusha County. Mitchell and his brother-in-law, Frank Cook, were charged with the crime, which the governor described as "horrible."

Lewis Bryant and his son, Coot Bryant, were robbed and then slain. Their bodies were left in a house



## Mississippi Insists Killing a Negro Is Murder

**F**RIENDS of justice have been reassured by the almost unprecedented action of a Mississippi court in sentencing a white man to die for the murder of a Negro. The crime was one of exceptional brutality. In the summer of 1932 the convicted man with a white companion entered the home of a colored man, robbed him of what money could be found, covered him, his wife and his son with gasoline, and set them afire. The woman escaped with her life; the two men were burned to death. The case for the prosecution rested upon the confession of one of the participants in the crime, who turned state's evidence in exchange for a life sentence. It might seem off-hand that the ghastliness of the crime, the unquestionable identity of its perpetrators and the absence of any mitigating circumstances whatever would have made conviction inevitable. But too many crimes against Negroes, equally brutal and unprovoked and where guilt was as clearly indicated, have gone unpunished for this incident not to be noteworthy. It is the first time in many years that the murder of a Negro by a white man has been taken so seriously in Mississippi, and the second occasion in the history of that state when the death penalty has been imposed for such a crime. Of course, it is still not certain that the sentence will be actually executed, although the state supreme court has reaffirmed it and the governor has so far refused to commute it. Latest reports, however, indicate that in the absence of Governor White in Washington, the acting governor has granted a postponement of the execution in response to appeals by certain war veteran groups. What lies back of these appeals for clemency we do not know. Is it merely a case of veterans standing by a buddy (the murderer was a veteran), or is this another instance of veterans aligning themselves with social reaction? Whatever their motives, one can be skeptical about the institution of capital punishment and still hope that their efforts do not succeed.

## HIGH COURT ORDERS

### FREEDOM FOR NEGRO

Tenant's Self-Defense Plea Is

Upheld in Slaying

LIFE SENTENCE RAPPED

State Motor Vehicle Commis-

sion Denied Right to Collect

Gas Tax From Dixie Pine

jury in rejecting Jarman's version of the shooting, which he said was in self defense," the court held that the lower court should have granted his request for a directed verdict of not guilty.

## NEGRO TENANT FREED

### ON MURDER CHARGES

**JACKSON, Miss., March 8.**—The State Supreme Court today freed a Negro tenant farmer convicted of murdering his white landlord and rebuked the trial court which sentenced him to life imprisonment for not instructing a verdict of not guilty. The high court held that the evidence showed it to be "a perfect case of self defense" and that nothing in the evidence would warrant the jury's rejection of Milton Jarman's version of shooting H. E. Woodruff on the latter's sunflower county plantation.

Jackson, Miss. Ledger  
March 9, 1937

## Decision May Arouse The North But Not Many Mississippians

A recent Mississippi Supreme court decision, affirming the death sentence imposed upon a white man for murdering two negroes, served notice that law-abiding negroes cannot be murdered with impunity in Mississippi by white men despite the false propaganda popular in some sections and frequently spread by some newspapers, such as the Chicago Tribune.

The Chicago Tribune and other northern and eastern newspapers noted that decision.

The State Supreme court Monday, in another decision, freed a negro convicted and sentenced to life imprisonment for the murder of a white man. The court held that the evidence revealed "a perfect case of self defense" and that the trial court should have instructed the jury to acquit.

Northern and Eastern newspapers may make much of this decision also. But neither decision creates excitement in Mississippi. Nor does either decision create alarm in our state among our white people. They have no fears that either or both decisions will create racial friction. Leaders and the majority of both races in our state understand each other too well.

## SHELBY SLAYER HUNTED

Negro Suspect Sought In Killing—

Another Planter Wounded

**SHELBY, Miss., March 29.**—Three deputies today were searching for Jack Johnson, negro of Shelby, in connection with the slaying of Dan Dangelo, 39, and wounding of E. R. Murphree, planters of Shelby.

Dangelo was shot in the abdomen Saturday night and died yesterday. Murphree suffered a flesh wound. Joe Stafford, marshal of Shelby said the shooting of the two men followed an altercation over craps. After the shooting Johnson fled into the woods.

Funeral services for Mr. Dangelo were held this afternoon with burial in the local cemetery.

## MISSISSIPPI JUSTICE IMPROVES

A Mississippi white man murdered and robbed two Negroes and Governor White refuses to upset the verdict of the courts that he must die in the gallows. He will be the second white man in Mississippi to die for the murder of a Negro.

Murder is murder whether done by a white man or a black man. But it is much easier to convict a Negro of murder than a white man, especially if the white man killed a Negro. This is disgraceful, but it is true. However, to note a growing change in the spirit of Southern white juries regarding justice to Negroes.

In all fairness it should be said that the average white jury wants to be fair to a Negro on trial, however lenient it may unconsciously be toward a white man who is on trial for killing or otherwise injuring a Negro. The Advertiser has heretofore pointed out that ordinarily when a white jury retires to pass judgment upon the cause of a Negro at the bar the men on the jury are likely to say: "Now, let's lean backward to give this man a break, just because he is a Negro". The Advertiser knows this to be true from personal experience on juries. Where Negroes are weakest in the courtroom, is not in their standing before the jury, but in their poverty. Most of those who go to trial are so poor that they cannot employ competent legal talent. White men are able to hire better lawyers and are more successful at the bar.

Where the Negro is discriminated against in the courtroom is when he is on trial for killing or otherwise injuring a white man. Then his chances of fair treatment are not as good as the chances of a white man who is charged with killing or otherwise injuring a Negro.

It is rare indeed that the extreme penalty is given a white man for killing a Negro. Extreme penalties should apply alike to Negroes and whites.



Killings-1937

Mississippi

## NEGRO SLAYER'S PLEA FOR CLEMENCY DENIED

Governor White Refuses To  
Halt Execution

JACKSON, Miss., June 28.—Governor White today refused to step between Robert Jones, Sunflower County negro, and the gallows. Jones' plea for commutation to life imprisonment of his scheduled execution July 3 at Indianola, for the murder of George Dodd, planter, near Baird, was turned down at a hearing in the governor's office this afternoon.

Declining to take jurisdiction, Governor White pointed out that the lower court and the Supreme Court had both affirmed the sentence and that it was not his policy to interfere with court verdicts unless it is shown that additional evidence has been uncovered.

In protesting executive clemency, Sam D. Neal of Indianola, special prosecutor, said if the governor should decide to intervene, it would seriously affect trials in that county in the future.

"Several persons told me that if clemency is given, there never would be another negro tried in this county for murder," Mr. Neal advised the governor.

Mr. Neal assured the governor that if there was any doubt as to Jones' guilt, he would not protest clemency.

L. P. B. Lipscomb, representing Jones, pointed out that two members of the Supreme Court, Justices V. A. Griffith and W. D. Anderson, had said that from the record manslaughter should have been the charge in the case.

## White Man Won't Die Yet For Killing Negro

COFFEEVILLE, MISS., July 13.—(AP)—William C. Mitchell, 55, white man sentenced to die for killing a negro, lost a court case today but again delayed his scheduled execution.

Circuit Judge John M. Kuykendall denied him a writ of coram nobis for a new hearing on his mental condition but Mitchell's attorney filed a motion for an appeal to the State Supreme Court. He cannot be executed until the high court acts on the case.

Judge Kuykendall ruled that the question of Mitchell's mental condition had been fully presented at his trial and had been passed upon by the jury.

Gov. Hugh White, denying Mitchell

clemency several months ago, expressed the opinion that the "law should take its course."

Mitchell, once an army cook, has three times been granted reprieves. He was convicted on a charge of attacking and robbing Lewis Bryant and his son, Coot Bryant, five years ago, and pouring kerosene over them and setting it afire.

## MITCHELL TO APPEAL FROM DEATH RULING

Court Dismisses Injunction  
Preventing Execution

## INSANITY ISSUE OPPOSED

Judge Kuykendall Holds De-  
fense Lacks Proper Grounds  
for Advancing Plea—Hang-  
ing Date Set for Aug. 30

Special to The Commercial Appeal  
COFFEEVILLE, Miss., July 13.—Attorneys for William C. Mitchell, saved five times from hanging for the murder of a negro near here in 1932, this afternoon planned an appeal to the State Supreme Court as Circuit Judge J. M. Kuykendall sustained a motion by Prosecutor Jamie Whitten to dismiss a writ which halted Mitchell's scheduled execution several weeks ago.

Later this afternoon Judge Kuykendall set Mitchell's new execution date for Aug. 30, and ordered that he be placed in the Hinds County jail until further orders. Mitchell has been in jail at Canton.

If the appeal is carried through, another date may have to be set later for the execution, as the high court does not reconvene from its summer recess until September.

The now famous case, which has dragged through the courts since January, 1936, when Mitchell was sentenced to hang here for the "torch murder" of Lewis Bryant and his son, Coot Bryant, negroes, passed through another phase this morning when Judge Kuykendall ruled defense had no proper grounds for injecting an insanity issue.

## Error Upheld

Mitchell was saved from hanging when Circuit Judge R. B. Anderson of Port Gibson issued a writ of error coram nobis five days before the execution date in May. The writ was granted on plea of defense counsel that the insanity issue was not properly brought before the jury here which found Mitchell guilty.

Governor White has twice refused to intervene in the execution. State insane hospital physicians have held Mitchell sane, and Governor White was quoted as saying he believed Mitchell guilty.

## Records Approved

In his ruling today, Judge Kuykendall held that the case of record prevailed over the motions made by defense counsel and that the principal plea offered by the defendant in the 1936 trial was insanity. Therefore, the court concluded, there was not and could not be an error of fact with reference to improper consideration of an insanity plea at the time of the trial.

Mitchell sat unmoved throughout the court's discussion today without apparent interest in the proceedings to save his life, but stared blankly most of the time at the floor ahead of him. He was utterly void of expression of surprise, regret, or sorrow, when it was announced that the writ had been dismissed.

## White Slayer Loses Appeal To Die Aug. 30



CLARKSDALE, Miss.—(ANP)—William Clark Mitchell, 55-year-old white World War I veteran who burned a colored father and son to death in a robbery, Tuesday lost his appeal for a new hearing on his mental condition before Circuit Judge J. M. Kuykendall at Coffeeville and was again sentenced to be hanged. The date is August 30.

For the torch murder of Louis and Coot Bryant in Yalobusha county during 1932, Mitchell has been sentenced six times to die and has been saved five times. The state supreme court upheld his death sentence and the governor refused to intervene after the slayer was found sane in an examination by state doctors, but his life was saved through a writ of error coram nobis issued on the ground that questions of his sanity had not been properly brought before the court.

## GAME WARDEN, NEGRO FOUND SLAIN IN WOODS

HICKORY FLAT, Miss., Sept. 4.—(AP)—Officers tonight were investigating the fatal shooting of Thomas H. McDonald, 64, game warden of Benton county, and a negro identified as Joe Brown, former inmate of the state insane hospital. The bodies of the game warden and the negro were found lying 300 yards apart in the woods eight miles north of Oakland today.

Popular supposition here was that the warden and upon the negro shooting each other out of season and had attempted to arrest him, and an exchange of shots followed.



# Fight To Hang Mississippian In Five-Year-Old Death Case To Be Renewed Tomorrow

District Attorney Will Seek to Remove Last Obstacle  
to Execution of William C. Mitchell—Two  
Negroes Were Slain in Robbery

Special to The Commercial Appeal

COFFEEVILLE, Miss., July 10.—A new chapter in the now famous William C. Mitchell murder case will open here Monday.

Twice denied stays from hanging by Governor White for the slaying of a negro near here in 1932, and saved from death at the last minute through the issuance of a writ by a South Mississippi judge, Mitchell will again come into court here next week when District Attorney Jamie Whitten of Charleston seeks to remove the obstacle to the slayer's execution.

Defense attorneys saved Mitchell from execution when they made application to Circuit Judge R. B. Anderson of Port Gibson for a writ of error coram nobis, which was granted. It marked the fifth delay in the execution.

Mitchell is charged with murder for the slaying of Lewis Bryant, negro farmer of near Oakland, for a few dollars and the burning of the Bryant home upon Bryant and his son.

Mitchell fled and kept himself under cover from that time until his apprehension at Cuba, Mo., late in 1935, following a continued search by local enforcement officers. At Cuba, he operated an electrical business.

## Denied Remembering Crime

Returned here, Mitchell began the fight for his life in the January, 1936, term of circuit court, where he denied having any memory of what took place and claimed that he was subject to mental lapses following military service in the Philippines.

Conviction closed the trial at Coffeeville, and the jury's simple verdict of "We, the jury, find the defendant guilty as charged," placed upon Circuit Judge John M. Kuykendall the duty of sentencing him to death. The execution date was set for March 13, 1936.

An appeal to the Supreme Court delayed the execution date. The high court, in affirming the case, set the execution date for Dec. 11, 1936.

No alternative apparent in the courts, defense counsel turned to Governor White, who granted a 30-day stay of the execution, to Jan. 11, 1937, while he could have sufficient time to conduct due investigation of the merits of a petition filed with him for a commutation of the sentence to life imprisonment.

## Second Stay Granted

Ten days before the expiration of the reprieve, Governor White granted another stay, which set the death date as Feb. 11. During this

## Served In Army

The mental condition of Mitchell is being relied on by defense counsel for the writ, and Mr. Whitten pointed out that the question of Mitchell's mentality was injected into the trial of case, when the jury imposed death upon him, and maintains that this was sufficient determination of the issue of his sanity.

Mitchell was born in Newton County in 1882, was from 1900 to 1905 employed in a Hattiesburg mill, served from 1903 in the state national guard, joined the regular army in 1911, and served through 1918. Six years of this time was spent in military service in the Philippine Islands.

Mitchell, incarcerated in the Greenwood jail for some time, was removed recently by order of Judge Kuykendall to the Madison County jail, where he will remain until brought here next week for his hearing.

## FACES MURDER HEARING

Yazoo City Officer Held to Jury After Negro Is Slain

YAZOO CITY, Miss., Sept. 9.—W. D. Johnson, city police officer, was held over the grand jury on a murder charge and released on \$500 bond at the conclusion of a hearing before County Judge C. D. Williams this morning.

Action was taken against Mr. Johnson following the killing of J. D. Bratton, 21, a negro, who was slain at his home here yesterday morning when the officer attempted to arrest him on a misdemeanor charge.

Bratton died of three bullet wounds. Officers contend that Bratton resisted arrest and attempted to disarm Mr. Johnson. The negro's mother claims that Mr. Johnson went into Bratton's room to awaken him. The startled negro, she said, grabbed the officer's flashlight and the latter opened fire.

## Court Writ Granted

Then came a call April 2 for a hearing on the Mitchell case before Governor White, and thereafter came Governor White's announcement that he would not further stay the execution, finding in the hearings no cause for executive intervention.

Defense then appealed to Judge Anderson and were successful in obtaining a stay through the writ of error coram nobis.

The old common law, little-used writ will be attacked by District Attorney Jamie L. Whitten as being illegally issued. His position is that it should have been issued, if at all, from the circuit judge for the Seventeenth District in which this county is located.

At the time, Judge John M. Kuykendall was ill in a Memphis hospital, but Governor White had temporarily appointed Hamilton Caldwell, Charleston attorney, special judge to serve during Judge Kuykendall's illness.

# MITCHELL'S SANITY IS BASIS OF APPEAL

Mississippi Jurists Asked To  
Set Aside Death Sentence

## NEW TRIAL IS SOUGHT

World War Veteran Is Second  
White Man In State's History  
To Face Gallows For  
Slaying of a Negro

From The Commercial Appeal  
Jackson, Mississippi, Bureau

JACKSON, Miss., Oct. 25.—William Clark Mitchell, second white man in state history to face the gallows for the slaying of a negro, today made a final appeal to the State Supreme Court to set aside the execution order.

A new trial is sought for the 54-year-old World War veteran to determine the question of sanity. His attorneys contend he should be confined in a mental institution and not sentenced to hang or serve a prison sentence.

The appeal, second made to the court, the first having been rejected when the Yazoo County conviction was affirmed, is based on asserted failure of Circuit Judge John Kuykendall, of Yazobusha County to empanel a jury to pass on a sanity contention raised in a writ issued by Circuit Judge R. B. Anderson in Calhoun County, and which ordered the trial judge to again review the case.

## Writ Dismissed

When the writ was presented to Judge Kuykendall, it was immediately dismissed, resulting in today's appeal, which was argued before the court sitting en banc. The matter was taken under advisement, with a decision to be rendered within the next few weeks.

Opposing the appeal, W. D. Conn, assistant attorney general, said if granted it would permit a judge in one district, without knowledge of a case, to issue an order on the trial judge, who is familiar with the background, and in this manner upset legal procedure.

Urging the court to order Judge Kuykendall to empanel a jury to review the sanity question, rather than take it upon himself were Ross Barnett of Jackson and H. H. Creekmore of Jackson, who contended Mitchell was deprived of a trial by jury and thereby denied his constitutional right.

## Charged With Slaying

Mitchell was charged with the slaying and burning of two negroes, although he was tried on only one of the charges. He was apprehend-

ed three years after the crime when located in Missouri under an assumed name. A brother-in-law had previously been convicted and sentenced to life imprisonment when he testified that Mitchell was the "brains." Prior to Mitchell's arrest, however, his brother-in-law died in the state penitentiary.

Defense of Mitchell was that if he committed the crime he knew nothing of it, because he was subject to "periods of lapses of memory."

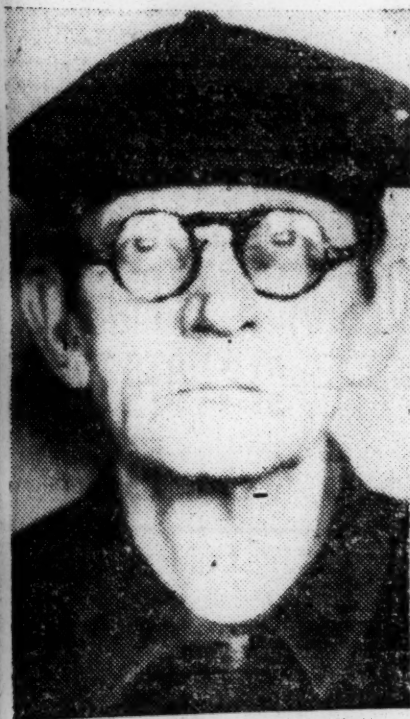
After the conviction and affirmation of the death penalty, Governor White granted a stay of execution to study the case, and after a hearing, in which Dr. C. D. Mitchell, superintendent of the State Insane Hospital, testified that he believed Mitchell sane, a new execution date was set. During the Governor's absence from the state, however, Acting Governor John Cuklin, of Vicksburg, granted a stay, and five days before the scheduled execution, the order from Judge Anderson was obtained at Port Gibson.



Killings - 1937

Mississippi.

## Escapes Gallows



William Clark Mitchell

## MITCHELL GETS LIFE; SAVED FROM GALLOWES ON ORDER FROM WHITE

Death Sentence Commuted In  
Surprise Move Following  
New Sanity Hearing

ENDS LONG LEGAL FIGHT

War Veteran Convicted For  
Murder of Negro

TWO APPEALS HAD FAILED

Three Prominent Physicians  
Examined Prisoner, Ad-  
judged Him Insane, Governor  
Says—Statement Issued

From The Commercial Appeal  
Jackson, Mississippi Bureau  
JACKSON, Miss., Dec. 9.—The  
death sentence against William  
Clark Mitchell, World War veter-

an, for the hold-up murder of a with three outstanding physicians Yalobusha County negro, in 1932, of the state, none of whom have was commuted to life imprisonment heretofore known Mitchell or had today by Governor White. any connection with his case in any respect.

The Governor said a statement by three physicians that Mitchell is insane "raised in my mind such doubt as to his sanity that my conscience will not permit me to allow him to hang."

### Was To Die Dec. 17

Mitchell had been scheduled to go to the gallows at Coffeeville Dec. 17 after losing two appeals to the Supreme Court and being denied clemency previously by the Governor.

The Governor's action came as a surprise late today since it had not been known that he had the case under consideration again. He informed Mitchell's attorneys, Ross Barnett and H. H. Creekmore of Jackson, of the commutation and the condemned man was notified immediately by Mr. Barnett at his cell in the Hinds County jail here.

Mr. Barnett said Mitchell received the announcement calmly, displaying no emotion.

### Caught eYar Later

The veteran was indicted for the robbery and subsequent burning of two negroes, but was tried for only one of the deaths. The crime occurred five years ago and Mitchell was not apprehended until a year later. He was tried, convicted and sentenced to hang and immediately a fight was launched for clemency.

"Since the Supreme Court affirmed the decision of the Circuit Court," the Governor said in announcing the commutation, "I have given much thought and prayer to what was the duty of the Governor."

"Some months ago and before I began any consideration of the case, Mitchell's attorney, W. I. Stone of Coffeeville, in a private conversation told me that he went into the trial of the case without the slightest idea that his client was insane but but that he found out in the closing minutes of the trial that Mitchell was entirely incapable of intelligently assisting him in his defense."

### Came Too Late in Trial

"This came too late in the trial," he said, "for an advantage to be taken of it." Mitchell was a stranger in Yalobusha County, where he was tried, and a total stranger to his attorney.

"I have today discussed, at length, the mental condition of Mitchell

"These physicians are Dr. J. S. Hickman, superintendent of the East Mississippi Insane Asylum at Meridian; Dr. E. J. Banks, of Jackson, who for six and one-half years was on the staff of the Mississippi State Hospital for the Insane at Jackson, and, for a number of years has made a study of mental diseases, and Dr. John Walker of Jackson, who for two and one-half years was on the staff of the Mississippi State Hospital for the Insane and since then has been in the general practice of medicine in Jackson."

### Said Definitely Insane

"These disinterested men, after a careful examination of Mitchell and a study of the known facts connected with his life, including the undisputed fact that he received a serious injury to his head while serving his country as a soldier in the Philippine Islands in 1917, have unanimously and positively stated to me that if a permitted Mitchell to be hung an insane man would suffer the death penalty."

"Knowing these gentlemen to be upright men and physicians, having full confidence in their integrity and ability, their positive statements that Mitchell is not insane raise in my mind such doubt as to his sanity that my conscience will not permit me to allow him to hang. Therefore, I am today commuting his sentence to life imprisonment in the State Penitentiary."

### Case Contradictory

Contradictory statements by physicians have marked the course of the Mitchell case constantly over a period of more than a year. In formerly denying clemency, Governor White based his action upon the findings of Dr. C. D. Mitchell, superintendent of the Mississippi State Hospital for the Insane at Whitfield, and other psychiatrists at this institution that Mitchell was sane.

Mitchell has maintained that if he committed the crime he remembered nothing about it. A kinsman of Mitchell's was convicted in the same slayings and sentenced to life in the penitentiary. He died not many months after entering the pen.

A negro woman, mother of one of the negroes slain and wife of the other, was the state's chief witness. She identified Mitchell and his kinsman as the slayers, telling a story of how she escaped after being tortured and bound by the two men. She testified that she hid in

a nearby field and saw the pair fire the house over the two other negroes. The slain pair were Lewis and "Coot" Bryant.

### Robbery Charged Motive

Robbery was the stated motive for the crime.

The Supreme Court affirmed the first conviction of Mitchell and fixed a death sentence date. While acting Governor, Senator John Culkin of Vicksburg, president pro-tem of the State Senate, granted a stay of execution.

Governor White then, after the sanitay examination by state psychiatrists, declined to commute the sentence. Members of veterans' organizations expressed an interest in the case, with Gaddis Williams, state commander of Disabled American Veterans, working actively for clemency.

Recently the penalty was stayed anew through a coram nobis proceeding, based upon the insanity contention. The Yalobusha Circuit Court declined to reopen the case and the Supreme Court again affirmed the decision in an opinion that denounced use of obscure legal devices in murder cases.

Several weeks ago the Court overruled a suggestion of error and attorneys renewed their appeal to Governor White. The Governor had given no indication, however, until his surprise announcement, that he had changed his attitude in the case.

### One Execution Noted

Records reveal only one execution of a white man for the killing of a negro in Mississippi.

On March 19, 1890, Mel Cheatham, a white man, was hanged at Grenada for killing a negro named Jim Tillman. As in the Mitchell case, numerous attempts were made to save him from death on the scaffold but the then Governor John M. Stone denied clemency.

Records showed that the Tillman negro was killed shortly after he testified before a grand jury concerning gambling operations in the Graysport area, 20 miles east of Grenada.

Cheatham was described at his trial as a "gambler and reprobate." Another man, James Lemon, and three negroes, indicted with Cheatham, turned state's evidence and were given life prison terms.

A fantastic story still circulates that Cheatham was never hanged but at the last minute was spirited away to safety. Authorities, however, place little credence in the story.

Dr. Frank H. Smith, former resident of Grenada, but now a resident of Greenwood, Miss., said this week he personally knew Cheatham and was a witness of his execution.

## SLAYER'S PROSECUTOR THREATENED BY NOTE

Letter Indicates Harm If  
Mitchell Hangs

Special to The Commercial Appeal

WATER VALLEY, Miss., Dec. 7.—District Attorney Jamie A. Whitten of Charleston, who prosecuted William Clark Mitchell for the 1932 arson-murder of two negroes, has received an anonymous letter threatening him if Mitchell is hanged.

Mitchell is scheduled to be hanged at Coffeeville Dec. 17 after several delays in the execution date. Only intervention by Governor White, who already has declined to interfere, or possible appeal to the United States Supreme Court will save him from death on that date.

Sheriff C. B. Bush of Yalobusha County was the first to receive threatening letters in connection with the Mitchell case. They were made public several months ago.

The letters to Mr. Whitten were mailed from a Mobile & Ohio train. Along with the threats were newspaper photographs depicting negro trials at various places and containing headlines concerning acquittal of negroes in certain sections.

Mitchell was sentenced for the murder of Lewis Bryant, a Yalobusha County negro. Mitchell's plea of insanity was overruled by the State Supreme Court.

### Mitchell's Counsel Confers With White

From The Commercial Appeal  
Jackson, Mississippi, Bureau

JACKSON, Miss., Dec. 7.—A conference here today between Governor White and attorneys for William Clark Mitchell, condemned slayer of two negroes, led to reports that the Governor may again be asked to commute Mitchell's penalty to life imprisonment.

The Governor and attorneys, H. H. Creekmore and Ross Barnett of Jackson, declined to comment on the conference. "We talked about the Mitchell case," was the Governor's only comment.

### Letters To The Editor

#### MITCHELL CASE

To The Commercial Appeal:  
It wasn't new evidence rejected in the William Clark Mitchell case or any heartfelt sympathy that Gov.

Hugh L. White had in mind when times he did interfere with the Governor's action. He was the new money in-law passed but he continually pours the almighty dollar. The writer voted and worked to hire Gov. Hugh L. White and he has no regard for the expense of our taxpayers or the protection of our lives. Three times he said he wouldn't interfere with counsel the William Clark Mitchell case and three

J. L. GOODWIN,  
Phillipp, Miss.



# SCORES CLEMENCY

To The Commercial Appeal:

The recent commutation of the death sentence of William Clark Mitchell of Coffeeville, Miss., to life imprisonment was a crowning example of stupidity and injustice. It is such acts as these on the part of Governors that do so much to thwart justice. The courts of the country are slow and inefficient enough, without such nonsense on the part of Governors.

Mitchell was convicted of one of the most heinous and cowardly crimes in American criminal history, and should have been hanged like the courts decided that he should.

Governor White, so it is reported, intends to run for the United States Senate next time. If so, he has already lost several thousand votes. Senator Bilbo will make mincemeat out of him.

H. M. G.

Washington, Miss



Killings-1937

## DECISION ON SLAYER'S PLEA EXPECTED TODAY

Commercial Appeal  
White May Announce Action in  
Clemency Petition  
4-9-37

From The Commercial Appeal  
Jackson, Mississippi, Bureau

JACKSON, Miss., April 8.—Gov-  
ernor White is expected to an-  
nounce a decision tomorrow on the  
appeal of William Clark Mitchell  
for commutation to life imprison-  
ment of his April 15 death sentence.  
Mitchell, ex-soldier, was convicted  
in Yalobusha County for the torch-  
murder of an aged negro.

Unless the governor has been  
swerved from a position he evi-  
denced prior to a public hearing  
last week, he is not expected to in-  
tervene in the case. Mitchell's plea  
is based on asserted insanity, al-  
though Dr. C. D. Mitchell, superin-  
tendent of the state insane hospital,  
has informed the governor he be-  
lieves Mitchell sane.

Psychiatrists called in by the de-  
fendant, however, have held that  
he is of low mentality. At his trial,  
Mitchell claimed a "lapse of mem-  
ory" and was unable to state wheth-  
er he participated in the murder  
with his brother-in-law, Arthur  
Cook, who was given life sentence  
and later died in the state peniten-  
tiary.

Mitchell escaped after the negro  
Lewis Bryant, and his son, Coot  
were murdered in 1932, and lived in  
Missouri under an assumed name  
until 1935, when he was arrested.  
He was never tried for the son's  
murder.

The case is similar to that of two  
negroes of Sharkey County, who  
are to be hanged April 29 for the  
slaying and burning of E. W. Cook,  
planter. The negroes are Seldon  
Brooks and Marv Holmes.

## SLAYER OF NEGRO GETS FINAL 'NO' FROM WHITE

Commercial Appeal  
Coffeenville Hanging Scheduled  
April 15—Veterans Fight  
For Ex-Soldier's Life  
4-10-37

From The Commercial Appeal  
Jackson, Mississippi, Bureau

JACKSON, Miss., April 9. — Gov-  
ernor White today refused to inter-  
fere with the scheduled execution  
of William Clark Mitchell for the

1932 torch murder of an aged negro.  
Unless last-minute legal maneu-  
vers are successful, the former sol-  
dier will be hanged April 15, at Coffe-  
feville, for the slaying of Lewis  
Bryant, negro. Mitchell was also  
indicted for the slaying of Bryant's  
son, but was not tried on this  
charge.

### Second In State History

If Mitchell hangs, he will be the  
second white man in the state's his-  
tory to go to the gallows for slay-  
ing a negro. The first execution  
took place at Grenada many years  
ago.

A writ of coram nobis, based on  
new evidence, is to be filed at Coffe-  
feville by Ike Stone, attorney for  
Mitchell.

"No legal step will be left untried  
in our fight to save Mitchell from  
the gallows," said Gaddis Williams,  
state commander of the Disabled  
American Veterans, who is leading  
the move to save the former soldier  
on the grounds that he is insane.

### Final, Says Governor

Governor White's statement an-  
nouncing his decision reads::

"After carefully and prayerfully  
studying the entire record in the  
Mitchell case, reading the entire  
court record, every brief filed, all  
letters and petitions, re-reading the  
testimony in the two hearings be-  
fore me and the hearing before Act-  
ing Governor Culkin, studying all  
the information furnished the gov-  
ernor by the defendant, I have defi-  
nitely concluded that the law  
should take its course.

"That's final," he added.

### Fled to Missouri

Arthur Cook, brother-in-law of  
Mitchell, was jointly indicted and  
tried before Mitchell was captured  
and sentenced to life imprisonment.  
Cook died last year in the state  
penitentiary.

After the slayings, Mitchell fled  
to Missouri and lived there until  
1935 under an assumed name.

His defense was "lapse of mem-  
ory." He claimed if he took part  
in the crime, that he knew nothing  
about it. Several psychiatrists  
testified he was of low mentality,  
while Dr. C. D. Mitchell, superin-  
tendent of the state insane hospital,  
held him to be "perfectly sane."

Mississippi.

## His Execution Delayed



Commercial Appeal  
William Clark Mitchell, whose execution scheduled for  
Thursday at Coffeenville, Miss., has been delayed through a writ  
pending a new trial, is shown embracing his mother in the Hinds  
County jail after hearing the news. He was convicted of killing  
two negroes several years ago.

Associated Press Photo

## NEGRO'S SLAYER GETS RELIEF FROM NOOSE

By United Press.  
WATER VALLEY, Miss., April 12.  
—W. C. Mitchell's fight to escape  
hanging for murdering a Negro to-  
day was back in the lower courts of  
Mississippi.

Judge R. B. Anderson, Claiborne  
County, had granted a writ of cor-  
am nobis which stays the execu-  
tion scheduled for Thursday until  
after Yalobusha County's July term  
of court convenes. Mitchell's at-  
torneys contended they had new  
evidence to present at the July  
term.

## LENGTHY COURT FIGHT OVER HANGING IS SEEN

Commercial Appeal  
Mississippi obtains Writ De-  
laying Execution  
4-13-37

HEARING DATE INDEFINITE  
Memphis

William Clark Mitchell Tries  
To Cheat Noose—White Man  
Sentenced For Torch Death  
of Negro In 1932

From The Commercial Appeal  
Jackson, Mississippi, Bureau

BY KENNETH TOLER

JACKSON, Miss., April 12.—A  
lengthy legal fight was predicted  
today over the state's effort to exe-  
cute William Clark Mitchell for the  
1932 torch murder of an aged ne-  
gro.

Mitchell was scheduled to hang  
at Coffeenville Thursday as the sec-  
ond white man in state history to  
face the gallows for the murder  
of a negro, but Saturday he ob-  
tained a writ staying execution in-  
definitely. This move was made  
after Governor White refused to  
intervene.

### Hearing Is Delayed

Although questioning competency  
of the writ, signed by a circuit  
judge from another district, Dis-  
trict Attorney Jamie Whitten of  
Charleston said it would be obeyed.

Hearing on the writ, signed by  
Circuit Judge R. B. Anderson at  
Port Gibson, cannot be held for at  
least a month, District Attorney  
Whitten said, as he has three  
terms of court scheduled during  
the coming month.

"I will seek a speedy hearing  
though in a special term of Yalo-  
busha circuit court," he said.

### Regular Judge Is Ill

District Attorney Whitten at-  
tacked legality of the writ on two  
grounds, one that there is an act-  
ing judge in the district who could  
have received the petition without  
necessity of going outside the dis-  
trict, and because Mitchell's san-  
ity was questioned during the trial.

In filing the writ before Judge  
Anderson, attorneys for Mitchell  
said that Judge John M. Kuyken-  
dall, regular judge in the Yalo-  
busha County district, was ill in a  
Memphis hospital.

"Governor White has named J.  
H. Caldwell, Jr., of Charleston, spe-  
cial judge and the writ should  
have been presented to him," Whit-  
ten said. "Also, I was not noti-  
fied of it being filed."

### Prisoner Transferred

Following issuance of the stay  
order, Mitchell, who has been con-  
fined in jail here for over a year,  
was removed to Greenwood.

"There is no particular signifi-  
cance to this action, as the sheriff  
had planned to move him for the  
past several months," Whitten said.

Mr. Whitten asserted that the  
question raised in the writ as to  
Mitchell's sanity was presented  
during his trial and taken into  
consideration by the jury.

### Flight Is Recalled

After the murder of the two ne-  
groes, Mitchell fled to Missouri,  
where he remained for three years  
under an assumed name. Arthur

Cook, his brother-in-law, was iden-  
tified by the wife of the aged ne-  
gro, and arrested. At his trial, he  
said Mitchell was the instigator of  
the crime, the purpose of which  
was robbery.  
When Mitchell was apprehended,  
he claimed he was subject to pe-  
riods of "lapses of memory" and  
if he had participated in the crime  
he knew nothing about it.



# MISSISSIPPI FAILS TO HANG MITCHELL

COFFEYVILLE, Miss., April 22—William Clark Mitchell, convicted white torch murderer of two colored men, did not hang here Thursday! At the last minute his counsel obtained a writ of coram nobis, on the ground that at the trial of the defendant sufficient evidence was not presented to prove beyond a reasonable doubt that he was not insane at the time the crime was committed.

The writ entitles Mitchell to a new trial. The next term of Circuit Court at which trial can be held will convene in July. 'Assurance of writ of coram nobis is unusual in Mississippi, where it is provided for by statute. Only a few prior instances where it has been used can be recalled.

Mitchell's death sentence has been upheld by the State Supreme Court. Governor Hugh White had refused to intervene and grant executive clemency.

## Two Negroes Doomed In Farm Torch Death

JACKSON, MISS., April 27—(P)—The Mississippi Supreme Court at its opinions session this week ordered the execution of two negroes, one of them a woman, Thursday at Rolling Fork in Sharkey County for the torch murder of E. W. Cook, a white planter of Anguilla, Miss.

The condemned couple are Selmon Brooks and Mary Holmes, the latter a servant in Cook's household. The negroes were convicted of murder in connection with the slaying and robbing of the planter and firing his home. What charges were made was an effort to cover up the crime.

Brooks's case was appealed to the high court but the judgment was affirmed and the court yesterday overruled a suggestion of error.

No appeal was taken on behalf of the woman. Their only hope to escape the gallows appeared to be left on the hands of Governor Hugh White.

Tuscaloosa, Ala., News  
July 18, 1937

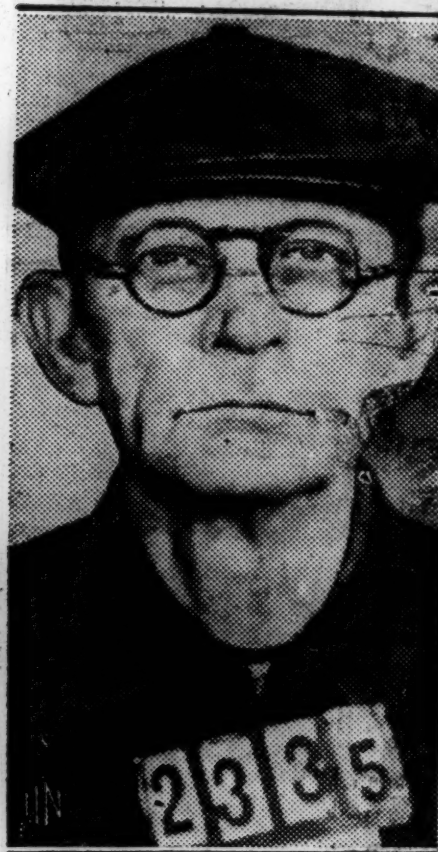
## Gains Supreme Court Appeal In Negroes' Murder



When his request for an appeal to the Supreme Court was granted, William Mitchell, 53, convicted for the murder of two negroes in Water Valley, Miss., obtained his sixth reprieve from the hangman's noose. The execution, which would have marked the first time a white man had ever paid the death penalty for the murder of a negro in Mississippi, had been set for Aug. 30. Mitchell is shown above, with head bowed, in the Water Valley courtroom where his appeal was granted. His sister and mother appear on his left and right respectively. The condemned man was convicted of soaking the clothes of two negroes in kerosene and setting fire to them, during an attempted robbery.

Maryville, Tenn. Enterprise  
July 22, 1937

## Fights for Life



Convicted at a previous trial and sentenced to execution for the murder of a Negro tenant farmer, William Clark Mitchell (above), of Oakland, Miss., began a new fight for his life when a second trial was begun at Coffeyville, Miss. Should Mitchell lose, he will be the first white man in Southern history to suffer the death penalty for the murder of a Negro.

## FARMER INDICTED IN SON'S SLAYING

Father Protected From Angry Neighbors in Dixie

Buzzard Killings

BELZONI, Miss., Aug. 11.—(UP)—Authorities took precautions to protect H. E. Barnett, a cotton tenant farmer, from an angry crowd of neighbors tonight after he had been indicted on a charge of murdering his 11-year-old son, Jordan, and exposing the

body to buzzards.

Barnett, barefooted, was led into the Humphrey county grand jury room and indicted on three charges—bigamy, assault and battery on a child and first degree murder.

The crowd muttered angrily at Barnett. The county folk said he always had been harsh to his two children. He had followed the buzzards to the body of his son after neighbors had threatened to search for the missing youth. The body was badly mutilated.

Before the grand jury took action, "Granny" Richards had reported seeing buzzards flying over the Barnett farm on August 2, three days after Jordan disappeared.

"I went to Barnett's on Tuesday morning and told them if they did not find the boy within an hour I would follow the buzzards to where he was," she said.

Within the hour, Barnett led officers to the decapitated and partly decomposed body.

## DENTIST IS SLAIN WHILE FIXING TOOTH

Farmer Clubs Wife to Death, Drives to Town and Kills Doctor.

JACKSON, Miss., Sept. 2.—(UP) Gordon Newman, 30-year-old Gillsburg, Miss., farmer who clubbed his wife to death and drove to Kentwood, La., where he shot to death prominent Dentist A. G. Root, was captured near his home and rushed to the mobproof jail here tonight for safety.

Amite County Sheriff Harvey stopped Newman and took away a rifle as officers of two states sought the fugitive. The capture was ten miles north of the Newman farm home, and Harvey raced for Jackson before news of the arrest spread. Harvey said that Newman offered no resistance and readily admitted killing his wife and the dentist.

Joe Vann, a patient in Dr. Root's chair, said Newman burst into the dentist's office with a rifle and shot the 55-year-old practitioner twice through the heart. Dr. Root was filling one of Vann's teeth.

Newman first stopped at the Root home. He drove on when informed that the dentist was at his office. Newman fled to his car and escaped before near-by office occupants knew what happened.



Killings-1937

Missouri

# ALL-WHITE JURY PROVES INCOMPETENT

Atty. Pouncey To Appeal  
Lockhart Verdict; Race  
Jurors Not Called

KANSAS CITY, Oct. 22—Atty. James D. Pouncey has made a motion for a new trial in the case of Benny Loland Lockhart who was sentenced to 50 years in the state penitentiary by a jury in Judge Daniel Bird's division of the circuit court. The jury was out one hour and 35 minutes.

Lockhart was convicted of the fatal shooting of William Dowlen, 20-year-old white youth who jumped the running board of Lockhart's car after a mob chased Lockhart following the knockdown of a five-year-old Italian boy, who was only slightly injured.

**Fled Mob**  
Lockhart testified he fled the scene of the accident because he feared bodily harm by the mob of Italians who chased him. Lockhart eluded his pursuers and boarded a freight train.

He was arrested at the edge of town while he was attempting to wash blood from his shirt at a spring near a hobo camp.

Three of the witnesses who testified that the crowd which gathered about Lockhart's car was menacing were neighbors of the Italian boy who happened to be the nephew of the slain man. These witnesses were Mrs. Bertha Smith, Mrs. Clementine Thomas and Mrs. John Pleasant.

Attorney Pouncey told the Defender reporter that the jury was incompetent when it came to weighing the evidence presented. Although the jury was all white, two members of Lockhart's race, Fred D. Brown and C. E. Darden, were on the jury panel but neither was called.

Although the local branch of the N. A. A. C. P. is taking no part in the case, the Second Ward Civic club, Mrs. Virginia Walton, president, is raising funds for the new trial which if denied by Judge Bird will go to the supreme court, according to Attorney Pouncey who

claims the verdict shows that the jury sanctions mob violence.

Martin L. McCauley, civic leader and general supervisor of the Second Ward Civic club, said the case would be fought by his organization to the end.

## Another Murderer Pays

It has been a long wait for the slaying of a Negro by a Negro to be treated with the seriousness by the prosecution that murders are where a Negro kills somebody else. Now at long last Wright, the slayer of Dr. Thomas McCampbell, has been sentenced to death, and his conviction affirmed by the supreme court. His death will be the second extreme penalty paid, though there have

been killings of every shade of malice down to those of ill-considered impulse. So little was done over a long course of years, that murder has been little more than a misdemeanor.

This disposition on the part of the authorities makes it imperative for the Negro public who live under the unrestrained threat of murder to protest in self defense. When a Negro kills a Negro, police and prosecutor must not think as the public does when a gangster kills a gangster—good riddance to bad rubbish. Granted that the defense is entitled to a hearing, the part of the public yet alive also is entitled to protection. The parole being granted criminals is a national scandal. Turning murderous Negroes loose because their victims were Negroes has been a fixer's paradise, another scandal.

It is no defense of the slack handling given Negro murderers that capital punishment is abhorrent. That is not the thought which influences the prosecutor when a Negro kills a white man.

All the authorities, beginning with the policeman who is first to reach the scene of a killing of a Negro by a Negro, should feel the responsibility for demonstrating to Negroes what a wonderful civilization has been erected here out of the beginnings made by Anglo Saxons from England, Huguenots from France, liberals from Germany, and the contingents from Catholic countries. The blacks are the children of the nation, the last brought into citizenship, and consequently the ones to be given training. Treating them as too savage to be made obedient to law is utterly inde-

fensible. In an age when public conscience is livelier, loose prosecution should lead to impeachment.

The prosecution has pleaded in some cases that it is helpless because Negroes will not act as witnesses. Neither does it have willing witnesses in all other cases. It has the law with which to compel witnesses. Once they face the judge they will talk, or go to jail. If one lies, he will trap himself. Every consideration demands that witnesses be made to appear. Their unwillingness is no excuse for the prosecution. This second victory for the law proves it can be done. A Negro's life is as dear to him as the next fellow's.



Killings-1937

Missouri.

# FEWER CASES OF MURDERS DURING 1936

Dr. L. P. Richardson Re-  
ports 234 Negro Deaths  
For Year

Coroner deaths among  
Negroes of Kansas City de-  
creased during the year of  
1936, according to the an-  
nual report of calls by Dr. L.  
Richardson, deputy coroner for  
second term.

From January to December 1936  
the report revealed that the total  
of Negro homicides during the  
year was 44, which is 12 less than  
the 1935 total.

Total coroner deaths for the  
year of 1936 was 234, which was  
two less than the 1935 figures.

The tabulations of the year are  
as follows:

Murder (homicide) .....	44
Heart disease .....	66
Trauma-automobile .....	12
Trauma-railroad .....	2
Acute alcoholism .....	5
Falls-accidental .....	10
Burns .....	8
Suicide .....	6
Kidney disease (nephritis) ....	23
Tuberculosis .....	5
Apoplexy (cerebral hemorrhage) ..	2
Ruptured Aortic Aneurysm (hemorrhage) .....	6
Intestinal obstruction .....	4
Pneumonia .....	18
Cancer .....	4
Drowning .....	1
Ruptured appendix .....	1
Premature birth .....	2
Tetanus .....	1
Freezing .....	1
Malaria .....	1
Diabetes .....	2
Heat prostration .....	3
Peritonitis following Toba Ovarian abscess .....	1
Septicemia (generalized cellulitis) .....	1
Staphylococcus Lymphaticus ..	2

Total number of deaths ..... 234

## RACE OFFICER SLAYS MAYOR'S CHAUFFEUR

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo.—Bill  
Griffin, 33, chauffeur for Mayor  
Ray, was shot and fatally wound-  
ed by Police Officer Booker Mason  
after he had struck the officer in  
the right hand with a knife fol-  
lowing an altercation in the 500  
block on Lafayette street early  
Sunday morning. Griffin had the  
reputation of being a bad man  
when he was drinking.

Mason was reported to have  
been talking politics with a group  
started abusing him, telling him  
that he was the leader of the  
Negro Democrats and he was go-  
ing to get his job. Mason walk-  
ed away and Griffin followed  
him and attacked him whereon  
the policeman pulled out his pis-  
tol and fired one shot, according  
to Lon Brown.

## Murder Must Stop

The moral paralysis usual when one  
Negro kills another is well expressed by  
a convicted murderer who says he did  
not expect the prosecutor to take much  
interest in a "black man kills a white  
everybody expects conviction and extreme penalty." But  
when the killer and the killed are both  
black, the crime becomes a minor inci-  
dent. Police do not make arrests, witness-  
es do not testify, and prosecutors are so  
diffident that this murderer was surprised  
that he was dealt with.

The taking of human life is a major  
crime for which heavy penalties are set.  
The failure to convict and punish when  
only Negroes are concerned is contempti-  
ble for them in the strongest terms. No un-  
written law saves them, no mercy is ex-  
tended as to women. Lax prosecution of  
Negroes who kill Negroes is a brutally  
frank way of saying no Negro's life is  
worth the law's protection.

Because this is what many officials,  
and the public mean, Negroes should see  
what a predicament they put themselves  
in by their refusal to be witnesses against

their murderers. All through the middle  
section and in the deep South when Ne-  
groes kill each other, the law makes such  
feeble efforts at conviction, that this one  
slayer condemned to death—one in one  
hundred—expected to get off with a light  
sentence. Even the Negro public expected  
him to suffer little for committing murder.

The situation is not to be treated lightly.  
Besides being a direct threat to life, it is  
blanket appraisal of Negroes that puts  
their worth to the community below all  
others. It is little short of saying "good  
riddance to bad rubbish."

Whether for passion or profit the Ne-  
gro who kills another should be fore-  
warned by the hanging of others that it  
means a life for a life. That is not the pre-  
vailing thought now. The knife and pistol  
toter is not afraid. Quite the contrary.  
He expects to spend a night in jail and  
be forever afterward pointed out as one

with "influence," which permits him to  
"do anything and not do a day for it."

As these killers multiply and Negroes  
sense of public duty fortifies, the penalty  
takes the form of a general lowering of  
Negroes in the esteem of their neighbors,  
with resultant bad effects on their em-  
ployment, housing and exercise of their  
citizenship. A thousand sober-minded, up-  
right, useful black citizens pass unnoticed.  
They contribute little to their people's rep-  
utation. It is the notorious who occupy  
the spotlight and get attention.

Respect for law must be created. If sev-  
eral elements combined to make this mur-  
derer think he could kill and get away  
with it, of which one is the Negro witness-  
es' refusal to testify, then let Negroes  
remove that mote from their own eye and  
then they can better demand that police  
and prosecutors get rid of the beam in  
their eye. There is some truth in officials'  
explanation of their lax prosecution. They  
say they cannot convict without witnesses,  
and that they cannot get Negroes to tes-  
tify. Murder must stop! It is all evil and  
evil for all!

## BOY, 15, IS HELD FOR SLAYING OF FATHER WITH BAT

Say Parent Made Threats And  
Attacked B y With Brick

John Riddick, 15 year-old coal  
truck helper, is confined in the  
City Detention House, on a charge  
of slaying his father, George Rid-  
dick, 51, with a baseball bat. A  
Coroner's jury returned a verdict  
homicide but a representative of  
the County attorney's office stat-  
ed that the case will probably be  
left in the hands of juvenile au-  
thorities and not presented to the  
Grand Jury.

A lengthy inquest revealed that  
the Riddicks were married six  
teen years ago and separated last  
September. He was discharged  
from a WPA job for drinking and  
non-support of his family. He  
kept the group in fear by fre-  
quent unwelcome visits to their  
home during which he had threat-  
ened their lives.

Tell Of Threats

The climax of the trouble came  
July 31, at the family's home,  
2903 Sheridan avenue. Testimony  
of the widow, Mrs. Mable Rid-  
dicks and George Burke, 20, a  
stepson, who took Riddick's WPA  
job when he was fired in order to  
support the family, told of the  
patricide.

Riddick came to the house ap-  
parently drunk, threatened to kill  
his wife two sons and a nine  
year-old daughter, who were  
present. Burke knocked him  
down and took a butcher knife  
from him and put him out, but  
he returned. He was again put  
out and then the younger son  
seized a baseball bat lying on  
the floor. The father picked up a  
brick from a flower garden. John  
they testified, hit his father twice  
and knocked him down and as he  
attempted to get up, hit him on  
the head a third time.

The older Riddick succumbed  
to a fractured skull at Philip-  
Hospital, August 12th.



Killings-1937

New York.

# PORTER IS FACING QUICK INDICTMENT IN CASE MURDER

Fingerprints, Trousers, Shirt  
and Stained Shoes Prove Him  
Slayer, Police Declare.

## HE DENIES HE IS GUILTY

His Brother and Handy Man  
Held as Witnesses, but No  
One as an Accessory.

Detectives investigating the murder of Mrs. Mary Robinson Case announced last night that they were ready to book Major Green, a Negro porter, on a charge of homicide and that they would have a special guard stand over him all night.

They said the blotter entry would set forth that he killed Mrs. Case in her apartment at 37-06 Eightieth Street in Jackson Heights, Queens, the house where he was employed; and that the murder was committed last Monday afternoon, with the use of a hammer and by strangulation.

This morning, the police said, they will take Green to the police line-up and then to Felony Court, to be arraigned on a complaint to be made by Detective James Sullivan of the Newtown Precinct, who is credited with the arrest.

Though the police were positive they had him tangled in a strong web of circumstantial evidence and were still questioning him last night, the short but heavy-headed prisoner made no admissions of guilt. "Not me," he repeated, stubbornly. "Not me."

Commissioner Valentine and other authorities were emphatic in statements that Green was the murderer.

"The brutal slaying of Mrs. Mary H. Case has been solved and the perpetrator is in custody," the Po-

lice Commissioner said. "He is Major Green, 33 years old, colored, who for the last six years has been employed as a porter by the Bachelors Club, located at the scene of the crime."

The Bachelors Club has five floors in the house where Mrs. Case's body was found at 6:35 P. M. Monday by her husband, Frank W. Case, hotel executive. Mrs. Case's head was crushed by hammer blows. Her neck bore a strangler's fingermarks.

### Wearing Case's Shirt

Early yesterday morning there were reports that Green had confessed the murder. These gained headway when the police began to itemize the details of the circumstantial evidence they had accumulated against him and after they had stripped from his back in the Case apartment at 3 A. M. a shirt belonging to Mr. Case and bearing the Case initials, "F. W. C." Green, the police said, could give

no satisfactory explanation of how he came to have the shirt. District Attorney Charles P. Sullivan of Queens announced that he would probably go before the grand jury today to ask for an indictment against Green. If one is obtained, he said, he will press for trial possibly within three weeks.

"And I'll ask for a special blue ribbon jury, too," he said, grimly, "for men who have no scruples against the infliction of capital punishment."

Two men were held in \$25,000 bail each late yesterday afternoon as material witnesses in the case. They are Henry Green, 30 years old, of 206 West 121st Street, a brother of Major Green, and Francesco Cattaneo, alias Frank Viola, 27 years old, who was employed as a handyman in the Jackson Heights house. Viola, the police said, had access to the incinerator where Green is alleged to have tossed the blood-stained trousers that figured in the case.

### Suit Found in Tailor Shop

Late yesterday afternoon, another important link in the police chain of circumstantial evidence turned up in the tailoring shop of Lazare Avvazian at 37-62 Eightieth Street, near the apartment house. It was the blue suit that Mr. Case found missing from his wardrobe, immediately after the killing. The police have assumed that the killer took the suit to replace the blood-stained

trousers found in the incinerator. Joseph Smith, 17 years old, who works as counter boy in the tailoring shop, said that a Negro entered the place at dusk on Monday, bearing the suit in his hands and asked that it be cleaned and pressed. When the boy asked the customer's address the man said: "68 West 118th Street." The boy put down the number "68," but then left off writing, he told the police, because the address was so far from the store. The man left the garment and hurried out.

Detectives said the boy would be asked to confront the Greendoorjamb in the bathroom. They brothers to see whether he can find the prints were photographed and identify either as the man who brought the suit to the store. "68 West 118th Street," the policeman pointed out, is where Major Green lives.

The Smith boy told Lieutenant James Smith of the Newtown squad that the man who left the blue suit gave the name of "William Johnson." That, the lieutenant said, is the name of two members of Major Green's family, one a brother of Green's wife, the other a nephew of Mrs. Green.

The lieutenant was positive, however, that neither of the Johnsons knew anything about the suit, nor of the murder. It was brought out that through an error one police official had said, early yesterday, that one of the William Johnsons was to be held as an accessory in the case.

### Detectives' Work Told

Deputy Chief Inspector John J. Ryan, who commanded the detail of 100 detectives working on the crime, explained last night how the trail led to Major Green.

"On the night of the crime," he said, "we made a careful search of the incinerator as soon as we learned there had been no fire in all day and that it was the custom in the house to begin incineration about 10 P. M."

"We went through every bit of refuse, and there was plenty of it. One of the first things we found was the ball-headed hammer with bloodstains on it. We knew at once that it was the murder weapon and a check-up at the toxicologist's made it positive. Then we found the pair of brown trousers, stained with blood. That, it turned out, was to be our most important clue."

The inspector said his men searched for a tailor's mark on the garment and found it in one of the hip pockets. It was the numeral "774." At Police Headquarters the number was traced to a cleaner in Harlem. Not long after the trousers were found the detectives began to search the lockers of the Negroes in the Bachelors Club. "In Major Green's locker," the inspector continued, "we found the coat and vest that seemed to match the trousers. We didn't say anything about that to Green. We

brought him in with the others for questioning, but didn't let on that we had the rest of the brown suit. He, like all the rest, denied that he had ever been in the Case apartment, though he worked around the floor there every day. He said he came to work early on Monday and left the building about 5 o'clock.

### Fingerprints Found on Door

"In the meantime, our fingerprint men had located fingerprints on the panels of the kitchen door of the Case apartment and on the Greendoorjamb in the bathroom. They found that three of the prints were not the Cases'. We sawed off that part of the bathroom doorjamb that had the foreign print on it and sent it to the laboratory, because it seemed to be the best of all the prints. At the laboratory the prints were photographed and the photographs were enlarged."

Meanwhile the police had taken Major Green's prints, along with the prints of the thirteen other persons questioned. Green's, they found, were the only ones that checked. The experts were positive that the print taken from the doorjamb were his.

"We still didn't let on that we suspected Green," the inspector said. "We let him out, along with the others, and he went away in the belief that he had been cleared. That was just what we had hoped."

From the moment Green stepped out of the Newtown police station, four plainclothes men dogged his tracks. He returned to Harlem and went to his home. There, the police said, he met his brother, Henry.

A few doors away is Vencentos's Tailor Shop. Inquiry there developed the fact that the brown suit found in Green's locker had been brought into the shop on Dec. 23 for a cleaning, and that the suit belonged to Major Green.

Not long after the detectives had established themselves near the Green home, they said, Henry Green came out of the house carrying a gray suit to Vencentos's shop.

When he had gone out again, the detectives re-entered the store, examined the garment and established that it was one of four suits stolen from Mr. Case's wardrobe last July. They recalled that Major Green had been questioned with regard to that robbery, but had been freed.

With this information in their possession, the police no longer felt any doubt. They arrested Major Green and brought him to the Newtown police station. There he stoutly denied that he had ever entered the Case apartment or that he knew anything of the killing.

The Inspector Ryan and other police officials thought they might make him talk if they took him to the Case apartment. There, too, he

steadfastly refused to make any admission.

"Peel off your shirt," one of the officials ordered.

Green reluctantly removed the garment. On the neckband the police saw the initials "F. W. C." which mark most of Mr. Case's shirts. Green insisted he had received the shirt from a tenant in the house. That tenant, interviewed, said he had never given Green any shirt.

### "Not Me, Mister"

Back to the station house went the policemen, with the prisoner in their midst. He seemed strangely calm, but was sullen. Whenever a piece of evidence was placed before him he shook his head.

"Not me," he said. "Not me, mister."

District Attorney Sullivan issued the following statement, after Green had been questioned for several hours:

"One Major Green of 68 West 118th Street has been arrested and charged with the crime of murder of Mary Harriet Case."

"Fingerprints found on the mantel of the door in the bathroom of the apartment occupied by the deceased have been identified as those of the defendant."

"The bloody trousers recovered from the incinerator in the apartment house have been identified as the property of the defendant."

"The defendant, at the time of his arrest, was wearing a shirt taken from the apartment occupied by the deceased. It is the property of the deceased's husband."

"Shoes taken from the defendant's person showed stains which beyond doubt will be identified as human blood. [Subsequently the stains were identified as human blood.]

"The dry cleaner's identification marks on the trousers found in the incinerator have been traced to a tailor shop in the vicinity of the defendant's residence, where they were sent for cleaning on Dec. 23, last."

### Unbroken by Questioning

His shoes and shirt gone, Green, who is rather short but has powerful hands, sat among the policemen and officials from the District Attorney's office all through the morning, apparently unbroken by the machine-gun fire of questions.

"He was calm through it all," said Assistant District Attorney Edmund Rowan, "and while he admitted to all of our arguments he would not admit to the natural conclusion to which they led."

"For example, when he was shown a piece of board taken from the bathroom door jamb, and was told that the fingerprints on it were his, he said: 'Well, they may be my fingerprints, if you say so; but I don't know how they got there.'"

"When he was told about the

An indication that robbery was the motive, the police said last night, was found in the blue suit that turned up yesterday in the Jackson Heights cleaning shop. In the inside pocket of the coat they discovered cuff links and white shirt studs stolen from the Case apartment. The man who left the suit, they thought, was too excited to remember to take them out. Up to last night the police had not discovered one other item missing.

Asked About Scratches During the struggle, the police believe, Mrs. Case scratched her face. Bits of skin were found under her nails, and are now in the police laboratories. In this connection, police asked Green how he came by the scratches on his forearms. They said, they thought, was too excited to remember to take them out. "I got that laying carpet," he said. "The carpet tacks caught

me." During the struggle, the police believe, Mrs. Case scratched her face. Bits of skin were found under her nails, and are now in the police laboratories.

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ing from the apartment—the platinum wedding band taken from Mrs. Case's finger after she was killed. Detectives examined the dust in the incinerator in the hope that it might be there. They also continued to canvass all the city pawn shops. The searched the Green home, they said, but it was not there.

District Attorney Sullivan said that the only thing that may prevent his going before the grand jury today to seek an indictment would be a decision on the part of the police that they need more time to uncover additional evidence.

"We have enough now, though," he said, "to obtain an indictment. Once the indictment is returned I will press for speedy trial. This is a particularly atrocious crime and I believe that quick disposition of it will tend to deter other crimes of a similar nature. If all goes smoothly, the trial should begin in Queens County Court within three weeks."

#### Burial in Lancaster Today

By The Associated Press.

LANCASTER, Pa., Jan. 13.—The Rev. William H. Bollman, who a little more than a year ago officiated at her wedding, will conduct funeral services tomorrow for Mrs. Mary Robinson Case. Only a few close friends and members of the family will attend the services, at 2 P. M., and burial in Greenwood Cemetery.

The body of the girl was brought to her native city last night. Her husband, Frank Case, and her parents, Mr. and Mrs. William J. Robinson, also returned to the family home, exhausted, friends said, by the nervous strain. A physician was called to attend them. Accompanying the funeral party were Arthur C. Hunt of New York, a friend of the family, and Mrs. Douglas Williams of Saratoga Springs, N. Y., Mr. Case's sister.

## COURT PICKS NEGRO TO DEFEND GREEN

Judge Colden Sets Precedent by Naming H. C. Lipscomb as One of Counsel.

### CONFESSION IS AMENDED

Prosecutor Says Defendant Has Not Repudiated It, but Has Implicated a Friend.

A precedent was established in Queens County yesterday when a

Negro attorney was assigned by Judge Charles S. Colden to take part in the defense of Major Green, Negro porter, accused of the murder of Mrs. Mary Harriet Case. No previous instance of a Negro being appointed to defend a member of his race in a murder case could be recalled yesterday by Queens County Court attachés.

The Negro appointed is Henry C. Lipscomb of 111-56 157th Street, Jamaica, Queens. Charles Pope Caldwell, former justice of the Court of Special Sessions, also was appointed counsel to Green. Mr. Caldwell lives at 43-35 Forty-second Street, Long Island City. Leo Hefernan, former Assistant District Attorney of 85-39 109th Street, Richmond Hill, Queens, declined an appointment as a third member of counsel on the ground of pressing business. It is expected that Judge Colden will appoint a third member within a few days.

#### Courts Fair to Race, He Says

Mr. Lipscomb is a graduate of the Virginia Theological Seminary at Lynchburg and the New York Law School. He was admitted to practice in New York State in 1921. Commenting on his assignment last night, he said: "My assignment to the Green case shows to the colored people that there is no difference between races before the courts of law in this county. I am pleased that the court has had confidence in me."

Mr. Caldwell issued a statement in which he said that the case was "most important in the annals of criminal history in Queens County" and recalled that every person charged with the commission of a crime is innocent under the law until he is proved guilty. "I shall defend this man to the best of my ability," he said.

Counsel assigned to indigent persons in criminal cases may not exceed \$1,000 and if more than one attorney the fee is divided among them as the court directs. Judge Colden said Green's lawyers might apply for expense money to be provided at the discretion of the court. If expert witnesses, alienists or others are needed, money for their retention will be provided, Judge Colden said. He declined to comment upon his appointment of a Negro.

#### To Ask a Special Panel

District Attorney Charles P. Sullivan announced that his assistant, J. Irwin Shapiro, would prosecute Green. The prosecutor will ask a special panel of jurors. Such re-

quests are almost always granted. Confusion arose yesterday over the exact nature of the confession that Mr. Sullivan said Green had made. When he announced at 6 A. M. Thursday that Green had confessed, he said that the statement would not be made public in any form. However, after many inquiries by newspaper men, a version of the confession was given out in which Green admitted killing Mrs. Case and stated he had no accomplice.

Police working on the case said he had implicated Robert Hines, a Negro window washer, who had visited him frequently at the Case apartment house, 37-06 Eightieth Street, Jackson Heights, Queens. When the discrepancy between these two versions of the confession was called to Mr. Sullivan's attention, he amended the original version to the effect that Green had said that Hines was with him during the murder and had dragged Mrs. Case into the bathroom.

Mr. Sullivan said continued questioning had failed to cause Green to change his story that Hines was with him during the murder. However, Hines seemed to have an iron-clad alibi that has been checked and rechecked, Mr. Sullivan said, but has withstood every test. Hines is held in the Queens County Jail as a material witness. He was examined by Mr. Sullivan and his assistants for three hours yesterday, Mr. Sullivan said, and his story stood up with the exception of a few minor points that had no bearing on the killing.

Mr. Sullivan and Deputy Chief Inspector John J. Ryan, in command of the detective division in Queens, denied reports that Green had repudiated his alleged confession.

Inspector Sullivan and Captain Edward Burke, in charge of the Sixteenth Detective District, visited the Case apartment yesterday with a squad of detectives to make a further examination of the scene of the tragedy.

#### Wedding Ring Not Found

Mrs. Case's diamond and platinum wedding ring has not yet been found and the police are eager to recover it. Mr. Sullivan expressed the opinion that Mrs. Case was not wearing it when she was killed. Had it been on her ring finger, Mr. Sullivan pointed out, it could scarcely have been removed without causing some abrasion of the flesh and no such abrasion was found. Although the police searched the apartment minutely and partly dismantled the incinerator, which yielded up the blood-stained trousers traced to Green, neither the ring, nor any other object of importance in the murder case was found, detectives said.

It was reported last night that Green was calm and undemonstrative in his cell in the Queens County Jail. Although reports of his assault by a group of infuriated men and women were said by the police and deputy sheriffs to be

greatly exaggerated, extra guards were on duty at the jail to prevent disorders.

## NEGRO CONFESSES 'BATHTUB' SLAYING

February 1 Selected for Trial; Infuriated Crowd of Women Attacks Killer

1-15-37

NEW YORK, Jan. 14.—(P)—Major Greene, 33-year-old negro, confessed slayer of pretty Mary Robinson Case, was rushed by a crowd of screaming women tonight as police led him from the Long Island city courthouse after he was swiftly indicted and arraigned, and his trial set for February 1.

He was taken without injury through the closing ring of women who yelled "Lynch him! Hang him! Good! He ought to be strung up!" At the impassive, wiry defendant.

Earlier in the day he confessed he had strangled and bludgeoned to death with a hammer the pretty Queens housewife and left her body in the bathtub of her apartment.

The Queens county grand jury indicted him on a charge of first-degree murder, to which he pleaded innocent. Conviction carries a mandatory sentence of death in the electric chair.

Continuing the top-speed tempo which marked the case from the moment the 25-year-old victim was found dead Monday night, the indictment was voted in about an hour and the arraignment completed in 10 minutes.

About a hundred spectators were at the courthouse door as Greene came still handcuffed. He raised his free left arm and ducked his head as the women tried to belabor him with pocketbooks and umbrellas.

The 100-yard trip back to the jail took more than five minutes.

The grand jury met to hear District Attorney Charles P. Sullivan's charge at 3:20 p. m., and returned the indictment at 4:40 p. m.

The prosecutor said a 12-page confession was signed by Greene after 24 hours of questioning.

A modified version of the document quoted the prisoner as saying he entered the woman's apartment bent on burglary, struck her with a mechanic's hammer when he found her at home, throttled and struck her again when she resisted, and finally placed her body in the bathtub. 1-14-37

#### Official Version.

Then, the official version went on, he gathered up a few trinkets and a suit belonging to the husband, Frank W. Case, who was at work, and went upstairs to change his clothes in a vacant apartment.

His blood-stained trousers and the hammer were dropped down an incinerator chute in the belief they would be destroyed.

But the incinerator was not operating and when police arrived they fished out the trousers and traced

them, through a tailor's mark, to Greene. They arrested him early yesterday.

Mrs. Case was buried today at Lancaster, Pa.

## No Negroes on the Green Jury

AS THE JURY in the Case murder trial was selected Monday of this week, it was revealed that on the panel of 60 not a single Negro was named. The blatant omission displayed by Queens county in this incident borders on sheer stupidity, as the United States Supreme Court has already ruled that exclusion of Negroes from jury service constitutes a denial of equal protection of the law.

Because the daily press of our city has elected to make a racial issue of the Case murder, many feel that Negroes would be justified in themselves forcing an issue by asking the defense to demand a mistrial on the score of the all-white jury. Harlem wants the accused man, Green, to be accorded a fair trial, and is retaining an open mind as to the verdict of the court. But an all-white jury as an opening indication gives no assurance of overwhelming fairness. By all means, a Negro should have been on the Case jury.



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the body of the girl was brought night, he said: "My assignment to day, Mr. Sullivan said, and his sentence of death in the electric chair. Continuing the top-speed tempo

to her native city last night. Her husband, Frank Case, and her par- ents, Mr. and Mrs. William J. Rob- ertson, also returned to the family

home, exhausted, friends said, by the nervous strain. A physician that the court has had confidence Inspector John J. Ryan, in com- ment was voted in about an hour and

was called to attend them. Accom- panying the funeral party were Ar- thur C. Hunt of New York, a friend of the family, and Mrs. Douglas Williams of Saratoga Springs, N. Y. Mr. Case's sister,

Mr. Case's sister, COURT PICKS NEGRO TO DEFEND GREEN

Judge Coiden Sets Precedent by Naming H. C. Lipscomb as One of Counsel.

# NEGRO CONFESSES 'BATHTUB' SLAYING

## Trial; Infuriated Crowd of Women Attacks Killer

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1-15-37

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Killings-1937

New York

Florence, Ala., *Herald*  
January 18 1937

### Now The Shoe's On The Other Foot

Headline: "Women Try To Lynch Negro In Courtroom."

Where was this, in the Deep South, Alabama, Georgia, Mississippi or one of the Carolinas, so long "infamous" for their "cruelty" to the black race?

No, this occurred, much to the amazement and chagrin of the Communists and racial inciters, in the metropolitan city of New York, which has long been the sneering base-station for all the Red propaganda wending its way Southward.

The attack was on the person of Major Green, black, who had just confessed to the killing of a 25-year-old white woman, and strangely enough, was instigated and carried out by women. Even in the South, according to traditions cherished above the Mason-Dixon line, women leave lynching parties up to their men-folks.

Furthermore, the paper in which we saw the account, a Southern metropolitan daily, "played down" the story, placing it in the second section, under a "dead news" head.

Had this happened in Alabama, or any other of the Southern states, does the reader think it would have been "played down"? He knows good and well it would have not, but would have been spread all over every yellow sheet in the country, and the International Labor Defense, Samuel Liebowitz, et al., would have leaped to the rescue of this "down-trodden worker" with all the avidity of jackals to a cadaver, and the enlightened minds of the great populace northward would have eaten up the screaming black type with greatest of gusto.

Yet, my friends, we are told in all solemnity that the South is a persecutor and exploiter of the black race, which latter has been upheld in all iniquity by this same I.L.D., and organizations of the kind, with especial reference to the infamous Scottsboro cases.

What those New York women had in mind is not exactly discernible, unless it actually was application of the lynch-law. The principal thing they accomplished, however, was to place these Red organizations and the brilliant writers of the north in an extremely embarrassing position, at least until they can find another case south of the line, and attempt to spread a smoke-screen of sufficient volume to cover up this incident.

### Color. Crime And Trouble

It so happens that Major Green, who is charged with the murder of Mrs. Mary Harriet Case, is a black man. Because he is a Negro there seems to be a most unfortunate and unfair disposition in this city to assume that his alleged crime was a racial crime, that it was one which he was predisposed as a Negro and, therefore to inflict punishment for it upon other members of his race. It has been reported that all other Negro employees in the apartment house in which Mrs. Case was murdered have been dismissed. A delegation of Negro churchmen then called at the Queens jail on Saturday and were responsible for the statement that several hundred other Negroes in this city had already lost their jobs because of a popular assumption that Green is guilty and because he happens to be black. If there is any such movement under way in New York City it should not only stop abruptly, but should go into reverse; for any such inclination is cruelly unfair.

The crime with which Green is charged is not a peculiarly

Negro crime. Whoever perpetrated it was a petty thief surprised in his thieving, in whom fear released a savage instinct to kill and get away. It was a cornered rat's crime. Such human rats should, of course, be extinguished, with the least possible formality; but not only is there no human race, breed, type or class of humanity that does not produce its quota of human rats, but it is pretty well certified by statistics that the black ones are rare. The rat reaction among Negroes in a tight place is far less common than it is among other human types—certainly much less common than among frustrated sub-human Anglo-Saxons with their greater capacity for going destructively mad.

Let us remember that an overwhelming majority of our colored folk in domestic and similar services very badly need their jobs and hold them by faithful and courteous service. The depression has been frightfully hard on New York's Negro population. Tens of thousands, with many more thousands dependent, are equipped by training for nothing but personal service. In this service 999 out of a thousand give all they have with a native grace, charm and devotion such as no other human type can rival. Do not be unfair, unkind or stupid enough to visit your resentment upon good citizens of dark complexion for no better reason than that the suspect in this case is a colored man.

—From The New York Herald-Tribune.

### FOLLOWING THE MURDER OF MRS. CASE AND

the Mattson kidnapping has come a wave of public hysteria. Both in Tacoma and New York lynching sentiment has been voiced which can do nothing but harm.

As indicated by the excellent police work and the promise of a fair trial in the New York case, the law is quite able to handle all phases of both these crimes without being spurred on by aroused public indignation. Such hysteria can only aid lawlessness, not justice. Experience has shown that public excitement and banner headlines in connection with such crimes often lead to many similar crimes in close sequence. Another unhappy result is the dismissal of several hundred Negroes from their jobs in New York due to a spurt in racial prejudice—one of the most irrational and dangerous elements in whatever fascist mentality America may be preparing. Thirdly, comes the proposal from Alderman Newbold Morris to require finger-printing of all hotel and apartment-house employees. Although the murder offers a sympathetic excuse, finger-printing of workers is too dangerous a precedent to be established. Finally, as happens always after widely publicized crimes, we find throughout the country a revival of attacks on the parole system.

### Defense Busy In Bathtub Slaying

NEW YORK, Jan. 17.—(P)—Counsel for Major Greene, negro porter accused of the "bathtub" slaying of Mrs. Mary Harriet Case, former Lancaster, Penn., society girl, tonight began mapping a courtroom campaign which they hope will save him from the electric chair.

Former Justice Charles Pope Caldwell, court-appointed chief defense counsel, said "several things which the newspaper accounts say have been attributed to Greene are not the natural reactions of a colored man—they sound more like what a white man would do."

Explaining that he was born and reared in Austin, Texas, Caldwell said "I have had a lot of experience with colored people and I know they act differently from white people under such circumstances."

He declined to specify what "things" he meant. He explained he knew nothing of the case except from reading newspaper accounts and consulting with Henry P. Lipscomb, negro lawyer who saw the 33-year-old porter in his top floor cell at Long Island City Jail yesterday.

Caldwell said Lipscomb, assistant defense counsel, agrees with him in the theory that "a colored man would not have acted the way Greene is reported to have done."

Lipscomb declined to comment on reports of jail attendants that the prisoner had repudiated a confession made public by authorities.

Caldwell who will see Greene for the first time tomorrow, hopes to bring the case to trial Feb. 1. Greene is charged with strangling and beating Mrs. Case to death in her Jackson Heights apartment last Monday in attempted robbery.

### Woman's Slayer

### Is Electrocuted

Negro Dies in Sing Sing Chair  
for Case Crime

OSSINING, N. Y., Aug. 19 (P)—

Major Green, 34-year-old Negro, was electrocuted tonight in Sing Sing prison for the murder of Mrs. Mary Robinson Case in New York last January 11.

The Negro entered the death chamber with his eyes closed. He was praying. With him were two ministers.

He walked into the chamber at 10:04 p. m. E. S. T. and was pronounced dead at 10:07 p. m.

The slayer of the 25-year-old woman who sought to escape punishment for petty thefts from the Case apartment by killing the pretty young New York housewife when caught in the act of robbery, lost hope for reprieve as the hours wore on.

Greene's mother, Louise Green who came here from Jacksonville, Fla., and his wife, Juanita, of New York, were among his last visitors.

Mrs. Case, college graduate and photographer's model in Lancaster, O., before her marriage, interrupted Green as he was stealing personal effects from her bridal home. He struck and choked her and left the battered body in the bathtub.



# Policemen as Showmen

*Amsterdam News 1-23-37*

THE TRAGIC drama of the Case murder brought forth what we believe to be some of the most serious faults of the Police Department. The department placed 200 policemen at work on the case which resulted in the arrest and indictment of Major Green, a porter who lives in Harlem. Obviously this large number of men was employed because Commissioner Valentine and his ranking aides recognized the great publicity which would accrue to the department. The Case murder became a big show, in which the department paraded gleefully in the spotlight.

The extremity of this vulgarity is emphasized when we recall the Scott-Reed murder case in Harlem five years ago,



when pretty Thelma Scott, her mother, aunt, and a baby were the victims of a brutal murderer. There was no such show then.

Consider the picture in this editorial. Here you see a detective carrying Mrs. Annie Johnson, elderly semi-invalid and mother-in-law of Green, into the Newtown police station. Mrs.

Johnson probably knows nothing about the crime. She is half sick and confined to her home. She could have been questioned just as well at home. But most of the newspaper and news-reel photographers were hanging around Queens that night.

Involvement of Negroes in crimes against white women makes sensational copy for newspapers and publicity for policemen. Unfortunately, the department will not forget showmanship.

## Pick All-White Jury As Green Trial Opens

By Harry Raymond

(Daily Worker Staff Correspondent)

QUEENS COUNTY COURT HOUSE, Feb. 8.—Behind heavily guarded doors, Major Green, 33-year old Negro porter charged with the hammer slaying on Jan. 11 of Mrs. Mary Harriet Case, went on trial for his life today in the Queens County Supreme Court.

Green, a slight man who came here some years ago from Florida, sat silently between two husky deputy sheriffs and listened with little obvious emotion as attorneys of the defense and State picked a jury of white men who will decide his fate.

It took exactly seven hours for the opposing lawyers to select the first ten jurors—an extremely short period for a New York murder case. The court adjourned for two hours last night and reconvened at 8 o'clock to finish the work of selecting from the talesmen two more jurors and two alternates.

The first talesman was called at 10:15 a. m., and by 6 p. m. ten selected jurymen were in the box. Both the defense and prosecution worked fast—too fast, it seemed. They expect to be ready to present the Federation should be represented in collective bargaining." Labor circles generally have been aware of the fact, that following the "suspension" of the U.A.W.A for affiliation with the C.I.O., the Federation has had literally no organized membership in the industry. Thus, Green's statement today appears to observers as simply a move to sabotage both the auto strike and the present negotiations in Detroit.

Green first held a telephone conversation with Governor Murphy, and later sent his reactionary demand in telegram form to the governor. **Bathtub Slayer Is Given Chair**

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### Bathtub Slayer Is Given Chair

### Jury Dooms Wiry Negro In Brutal Murder

NEW YORK, Feb. 11.—(P)—Major Green, 33-year-old bathtub slayer of Mrs. Mary Case was convicted of first degree murder tonight by a jury in

Queens County Court. A death sentence is mandatory.

The conviction came a month to the day after the wiry negro houseman bludgeoned to death a pretty housewife in her Jackson Heights apartment and left her body in the bathtub where her husband, a hotel accountant, found it.

The jury of middle-aged men, all married, took three hours and one minute to decide the fate of Green, whose lawyers admitted he had done the brutal murder and attempted only to save him from the electric chair. The killer had been almost impassive throughout the trial except for a brief moment today when he rose in the courtroom to shout his denial that he had ever seen the detective who detailed his story of how he beat Mrs. Case to death with a hammer.

When the verdict was announced, Green's jaw tensed, his lips tightened. He was taken to the clerk of court to have his life history recorded, his two guards dwarfing the little killer. Sentence will be passed Feb. 19 in the same courthouse where Ruth Snyder and Judd Gray were sentenced to death for the sashweight murder of her husband.



Killings - 1937

## Negroes Slay Man In Central Park

NEW YORK, Dec. 3 (AP)—Murder in Central Park, that big rectangular area of rocky hills, lakes and trees in the heart of Manhattan, sent 16 detectives into swift action today.

They had two clues, a shoemaker's awl and a heavy rock, both stained with blood; and a rough description of two Negroes, whispered by Charles A. Klein, 60, as he lay dying from stab wounds.

The men seized him, Klein said, while he was strolling through the park as hundreds of New Yorkers do day and night. They robbed him of a watch and chain and a wallet containing several dollars.

The slaying there, the first since the summer of 1936 when a series of outrages including robberies, and the killing of a youth roused the public to demand better police protection, occurred near a tunnel under drive.

### STIGMATIZED. AGAIN

**TWO WEEKS AFTER** Negroes were stigmatized by the white daily newspapers for the murder of Charles Klein in Central Park it developed that the case was not murder but a well planned suicide. But, where the dailies shouted in big headlines that two Negroes had killed Klein, they afterwards mentioned in follow-up stories that police theories of murder had been disproved in favor of the suicide theory.

Writing to the New York Post, Lyonel Florant protested that "It is indeed shocking that not a single New York newspaper has

carried in its editorial columns an apology to the Negro people of New York City for the undue publicity given to the prejudiced prattlings of a dying man."

In explaining his paper's position in the matter, the Post editor appeared a note to the letter which was reproduced in its readers forum as follows:

"The Post has a rule that race shall not be mentioned in reporting crime news, except when it is an essential part of the news. In the case of the Klein death, the injured man before he died, gave a description of his assailants in which he mentioned they were Negroes. In the interest of apprehending them, it was essential the descriptions be

correct, 'Negroes'. Police now say the case may have been a suicide — not a murder."

We're glad to see that Mr. Florant has taken the press to task for stigmatizing the Negro once more, but it is questionable that apologies of such a nature as made by the Post editor will do much good. Many people who read the original story in which Negroes were accused of the murder probably did not read subsequent stories in which the suicide theory was given as the cause of death. Apologies at the best are read by few people. The important thing is that the harm has already been done, the race stigmatized and once more Negroes made to feel the brunt of criticism for some heinous crime for which they were not responsible.

On the other hand, take the recent vile rape case in Brooklyn in which a four-year old Negro girl was allegedly viciously ravaged by a Greek. Did the daily newspapers carry the story? And did the police give out information to reporters that a "white beast" had been arrested for the crime? No.

Stigmatizing the Negro has become too much of a pastime for our daily newspapers. It's time that they gave him a break. With the new year fast at hand, they might start off right by resolving to play down mention

of race in crime and cease offending their Negro readers without the slightest cause or provocation.



Killings-1937

North Carolina

# Did Innocent Man Die For Hotel Crime?

Last Message of Martin Moore Leads to Arrest of Two And Naming of Prominent White Man.

ASHEVILLE, N. C., Jan. 21—In spite of the pretense of law officials of the State, the execution of Martin Moore for his purported slaying of Helen Clevenger did not ring down the last chapter on that case. An undercurrent of hidden facts continues to boil and is suing.

The insurance company has refused to pay the "death money" because more and more evidence on the ground that an innocent man has been executed, and it will make a thorough investigation in by way of the lethal gas chamber.

Denies Guilt

Although the daily papers refuse to divulge the facts, it is known that Sheriff Lawrence Brown has taken Banks Taylor and Robert and L. D. Rolley, brothers, pantry and elevator boys at the fashionable Battery Park where the New York co-ed met her death, back into custody as part of the further investigation of the murder case.

Just what part Banks is to play to help uncover the mystery is unknown at this time, but it is known that before Moore was executed, he wrote a letter to one of the Rolley brothers begging him to tell the truth about the possession of his (Moore's) gun the night the girl was slain. All during the executed man's imprisonment and trial, he admitted ownership of the gun used in the murder, but strenuously contended he had loaned it to Rolley some time before the tragic night. Rolley, it is said, reloaned the revolver to the son of a very prominent white man in the city.

**Insurance Company Investigates**  
The present picture of the case reveals a more formidable foe against the state than the pauperous family of Moore. This force now leading the fight for more truth in the crime is said to be either the insurance company, who will have to pay the "death judgment" or the hotel syndicate operating the Battery Park Hotel, in which the Clevenger girl's father

## DEATH OF NEGRO WILL BE PROBE

Court Term Prevents Immediate Study of Wake Forest Shooting

Solicitor William Y. Bickett announced yesterday that he would make a full investigation into the fatal shooting of Ollie Brodie, Negro ex-convict, who was slain as he fled from officers in Wake Forest Friday night.

The Solicitor said he had not talked to the four officers, who had gone to Brodie's home to arrest him on an assault charge. A term of court this week probably will prevent his making the investigation until next week, he added.

No one of the officers—Deputy Sheriff C. H. Coppedge, Policeman J. G. Fish of Wake Forest, and Special Officers J. R. Knight and T. C. Sweet, both Seaboard Air Line detectives—admitted shooting the Negro.

They said Brodie was being manacled when he freed himself and ran from his home. There was a burst of shot, they said, but they

added that they did not know who fired and that they saw no one else near at the time.

A coroner's jury returned a verdict saying the Negro came to his death at the hands of "a person unknown to us."

Charlotte, N. C., News

April 7, 1937

Jim Crow Murders

A Negro woman in Lumberton is in jail accused of having doused her husband with kerosene and set him afire. And, oh, yes; an eyewitness says she also smothered his head with a blanket to muffle his outcries while he burned. He died.

And that, of course, if the facts are as stated, makes the crime murder, probably murder in the first degree, which is a capital offense in North Carolina. But it is seldom that a Negro is convicted of the first degree murder of another Negro. There is a sort of unwritten rule that when both the accused and the corpse are colored, a second degree verdict is as much as the State will exact to square the account. As a consequence, brutal, sometimes gruesome, murders are punished with prison sentences rarely exceeding ten years. As a further consequence, Negroes continue to blot out one another with apparent abandon and comparative immunity from the alleged awful vengeance of the law.

Dunn, N. C. Dispatch  
April 16, 1937

Kid Crimes.

An eleven-year-old Negro boy is being held for action of the Cumberland county grand jury in connection with the shot gun killing of a Negro between Wade and Godwin nearly two weeks ago.

At the coroner's inquest the youth called upon his imagination to supply officers with facts that turned the accusing finger towards another man who had an air-tight alibi. The child, not yet in his "teens," gave several different versions of the shooting, and reversed his field a number of times.

Nearly every daily paper carries some story about the

murders and other crimes that other in the shoulder. Two .35 boys and even girls are mixed calibre bullets were removed by up in, either as murderers or Drs. S. B. McPheeters, director of potential killers. in a special autopsy performed at the Hamilton Funeral Home.

The tragedy lies not in the fact that the crimes are committed, crime is an old story to man, but in the fact that kids can no longer follow the course of nature and grow up naturally and normally.

## Two White Men

## Get Only \$4 In

## Theft Killing

Jim Williams Body Is

Found In River Near

Goldsboro, N. C.

GOLDSBORO, N. C. — For the robbery slaying of Jim Williams, 30, April 2, two white men face execution in the gas house in the North Carolina State Penitentiary when they go on trial in the May term of the Wayne County Superior Court beginning May 24.

The loot in the robbery scheme hatched in the drunken brain of the two white men, Milford Exum and Earl Sasser, was \$4, and the toll in human life up to that point is one, Jim Williams, brutally murdered in cold blood.

These facts and others were included in the detailed confession obtained from Exum by Sheriff Paul C. Garrison last week while being taken from the Snow Hill jail to his home near here. Shortly after he arrived at home, Exum tried to commit suicide in the presence of his wife and three officers by drinking Paris Green. Rushed to a local hospital, he was given first aid and is recovering from the effects of the poison.

TWO BULLETS REMOVED

Williams was found in the Little River near Princeton on Saturday, April 17, by Lawyer and Mrs. Ruth Brown. The body was tied to a flat piece of iron weighing about 75 pounds, and was badly battered.

Examination revealed two bullet holes, one in the head and the

SHOT DEFENDING HOME

Williams was shot twice while attempting to defend himself. He was killed almost instantly by the second bullet which struck him in the head just above the ear. The robbers ransacked the house and stripped the dead man of his clothes. Exum declared that Sasser went to his home for the iron weight and after attaching this to the victim's body, dumped him in the river nearby.

The two men later destroyed the floor mat of the car because it had blood on it. Exum said that he and Tinker Holland also burned the car because it had bloodstains on the seats and cushions. Holland was arrested along with Exum and Sasser, but was released under \$250 bond to appear as a material witness when the case comes up in May in Superior Court.

Sasser has denied any part in the alleged crime. However both men are being held without bond on charges of robbery and killing. Exum asserted that both he and Sasser had been doing considerable drinking before the robbery-slaying.

## Farm Hand Accused Of Killing Woman

DURHAM, N. C., June 17.—(AP) Mrs. W. T. Hammett, of Chatham county, died in a hospital today from bullet wounds, alleged to have been inflicted at her farm home six miles from Pittsboro yesterday by a negro employee.

Officers said they believed the farm hand, William Perry, was surrounded in a swamp several miles south of Danville, Va., just north of the North Carolina-Virginia state line.



June 8, 1937

## North Carolina and Life

The record is against us. Census bureau figures show that in 1934-35 this state had an annual average of 312 homicides. Only Kentucky and Florida out of 45 reporting states, had higher rates. Georgia, Mississippi and Alabama failed to report.

The University News Letter finds it difficult to account for the high rate shown by this state in the matter of killings. It insists that excessive ruralism is not the answer, since the excessively rural states of Maine, North Dakota, and others, have a better record. Nor is a comparatively high percentage of Negro population the complete answer, since the South Carolina rate is only half as high as Tarheelia's and its Negro population is about twice as large as that of the Old North State.

The only answer the News Letter is ready to submit is that we simply do not value human life as highly as we should in North Carolina. That is well put, even though it might be suggested that North Carolina has a mountain section where men are men and feuds are sometimes fought with other mountain men, or with the "revenooers," and that when this is added to sociological conditions among poor whites and Negroes, the illiteracy tables and the per capita income of North Carolinians, in contrast with such income in other states, Mr. Hobbs might be able to strike sort of reasoned conclusion as to the whyness of our low valuation on human life.

## POLICEMAN, NEGRO SLAIN IN GUN FIGHT

Third Participant in Highway Shooting Hunted in North Carolina.

GOLDSBORO, N. C., June 8.—(AP)—A state highway patrolman and a negro were killed in an early morning gun battle near here, and an all-day search failed to turn up an alleged third participant in the shooting.

The victims were Patrolman I. T. Moore, 28, and Frank Cox. Tonight deputies continued a search for Lester Cox, brother of the slain negro. Sheriff Garrison said the patrol-

man stepped on the running board of the negroes' car to halt them for driving with one headlight. An argument ensued, and the firing began. Moore, fatally injured, died a few minutes later in a hospital.

The negroes, after firing, ran, Garrison said, and other officers with the patrolman, opened fire on them. The slain negro was found in a ditch about a mile from the scene of battle, five miles south of here on State Highway No. 117.

### "JUSTIFIABLE HOMICIDE."

Although an Edgecombe county coroner's jury has been quick to declare the killing of a manacled negro prisoner by two Rocky Mount police officers "justifiable homicide" and that probably ends it, so far as the law is concerned and as such cases generally work out, perusal of the evidence is calculated to leave a fair-minded public not only quizzical but downright indignant.

The negro, one Lester Peterson, had been bound over in Rocky Mount recorder's court on an automobile theft charge and was being taken to Tarboro to await trial in Superior court by Officers L. L. Williams and G. D. Wheelless. The prisoner, manacled, was in the back seat of the car with the two officers riding together in the front. That arrangement of itself seems to invite trouble, as the obviously safer course would have been for one officer to ride alongside the prisoner. It is wondered how closely they were minding their prisoner, whether they both had their backs turned to him and with just what matters they were pre-occupied.

Nor was there seating arrangement or possible pre-occupation alone in its invitation for trouble. Officer Wheelless' pistol was exposed and easily available, its holster "unflapped" because, according to his own testimony, he had neglected to fasten the cover after serving as escort for a bank messenger earlier in the day. How much does that lack of being contributory negligence? But let's consider more of the officer's own testimony as reported in of \$4. Tarboro dispatches to the Raleigh News and Observer:

Wheelless, according to his own testimony, seized the pistol by the

muzzle, sustaining flesh wounds in his left hand and right arm as the negro fired one time, wrested the weapon from Peterson and fired twice into his chest.

"You've killed me," Wheelless quoted the negro as saying.

"That's exactly what I meant to do," he told the coroner's jury he had replied.

Peterson was shot in the heart and abdomen with the same weapon he had used to wound the officer.

Williams said he stopped the car and attempted to draw his gun, but that the negro had been killed before he could free the weapon from its holster.

Official negligence and lack of intelligence paved the way to, if they did not actually invite, the attempted escape; and the prisoner was shot to death after he had been disarmed. "Justifiable homicide" holds the coroner's jury. Justified by what, may we inquire in the name of a double lack of justification and a sworn responsibility to protect no less than to guard prisoners intrusted to official keeping?

## DIXIE JURY FINDS WHITE MEN GUILTY

GOLDSBORO, N. C. — (PFS) —

An unusual courtroom spectacle was witnessed here last week when a jury convicted two white men of first degree murder in the killing of a Negro basketmaker. The jury won the warm praise of Judge Henry A. Brady for its moral courage, in return for such a verdict. The judge declared that the decision set a precedent in South Carolina courts.

One of the defendants, Milford Exum, was sentenced to die in the gas chamber on November 15. Conviction of the other, Earl Sasser, was set aside by agreement with the prosecution. Sasser was allowed to plead guilty to being an accessory and was sentenced to life imprisonment. The men were convicted of shooting the Negro on April 19 and of robbing him of \$4.

Tarboro dispatches to the Raleigh News and Observer:

Wheelless, according to his own testimony, seized the pistol by the

## NEWSMEN DECIDE CASE

Negro's Life Saved by Decision In North Carolina

RALEIGH, N. C., Nov. 18.—(UP)

—The death sentence of a negro condemned for slaying a white man was changed to life imprisonment last night after Governor Hoey submitted the case to a "jury" of five newspaper men as representatives of public opinion.

The negro, Brady Laurence, 22, farm hand, was scheduled to die Dec. 17 for killing Clyde Erwin at a negro "school closing" celebration in May, 1936. Laurence contended he attacked in self defense.

The newspaper reporters, representing two press associations and two newspapers, voted unanimously for commutation.



Killings-1937

Oklahoma.

# NEGRO JURY EXCLUSION ISSUE HEARD IN CRIMINAL COURT OF APPEALS IN HOLLANDS CASE

BARTLESVILLE HOMICIDE AIREO BEFORE HIGH COURT; ATTORNEYS CLAIM JURY PREJUDICED

## N. A. A. C. P. Defends Doomed Man

Echoes of the slaying of Henry Cobb, night watchman, rang in the Criminal Court of Appeals Tuesday when Attorneys J. R. Charlton and Cecil E. Robertson, N. A. A. C. P. counsel, appeared there asking for a new trial for Robert Hollands.

"That jury was prejudiced because Hollands is a Negro and that Cobb was a white man and an officer," declared Attorney Charlton, when closing his argument for the defense.

Judge Doyle interrupted Charlton in his argument when the Bartlesville attorney sought to infer that the jury had been tampered with.

"We have a case right here we have just passed on identical as you present your case, but this court holds that you cannot impeach a jury once it has been impaneled."

Charlton told the high court that when the jury came back into the court room asking for further instructions it proved that either some jurymen were guilty of perjury or that some member had later been tampered with by outside sources.

"When the judge asked them what they desired to know and they had whispered the question to him, he answered, 'There is no evidence in this case that the prisoner had a previous criminal record.'"

"This court knows that the questions could not have been asked unless some one of those jurors had previous knowledge of Hollands' life. And yet each one of them swore before they went into that jury box that he knew nothing about the defendant regarding which he could have reached a previous conclusion. Some member of that jury presented something to his fellows that did not come from the witness stand."

Greater stress, however, was placed by both attorneys on the fact that Negroes are excluded from jury service in Washington

# NO NEGROES ON JURY; NEW TRIAL ORDERED

## Oklahoma Appeals Court Rules in Favor of Con- demned Robt. Holland

OKLAHOMA CITY. —

(CP) — Robert Holland, Bartlesville cleaner and presser, sentenced to death by an all-white jury in Washington county, for the shooting to death of James Cobb, white night watchman, on the night of December 1935, was granted a new trial by the criminal court of appeals.

The high court held that Holland was denied the equal protection of the law because Negroes were unlawfully excluded from the jury which tried him.

### In Death House

Holland has been in the death house at McAlester since June, 1936, after a jury returned a verdict of first degree murder against him on May 13, 1936. Believing that Holland would not get a fair trial, the state conference of the branches of the N. A. A. C. P. employed Cecil E. Robertson, Muskogee attorney, to protect Holland's rights.

At the trial, Robertson challenged the jury panel on the ground that Negroes had been systematically excluded from jury service because of their race and color.

### 10 Per Cent Negroes

Robertson contended that Negroes had never served on the jury in Washington county since statehood although 10 per cent of its population consisted of Negroes. After Holland's conviction, the case was appealed to the criminal court of appeals.

Cobb was shot and killed after he entered the house in which Holland lived to arrest him without a warrant.

## And The State Wonders What To Do

The best proof as to the attitude of the state and its white citizens towards the crime of lynching will develop in a few days when the state pardon and parole board reaches a decision in connection with the capture of Oscar T. Smith, fugitive from the McAlester prison, and who was convicted during the Packingtown riots in 1922, charged with the lynch murder of Jake Brooks, Negro Packingtown laborer. *Black Dispatch*

Seven others, who with Smith confessed at that time that they killed Brooks, received like penalties. Governor Walton during his incumbency of the governor's office freed all of the white men and the Negroes connected with the crime were released by a subsequent governor.

Smith took French leave following his leave of absence granted by Walton and was not to be located in sufficient time to be given a permanent pardon just before the curtain rang down upon the Walton administration. His attorney now alleges that he should be released because all others parties to this horrible crime have been released.

The attitude of the general white public towards the murder of Negroes is focal in the fact that for years this fugitive from justice has been living right here in Oklahoma City, where the crime was committed, and where there must have been scores of folk who knew he was a run-away from justice. *6-12-37*

"We must go into the case thoroughly before a decision as to recommitment" is a quotation alleged to have come from one member of the pardon and parole board.

It appears to the Black Dispatch that it ought not to take over a split second for the pardon and parole board to go through this matter. Here is a confessed murderer caught after 14 years of illegal freedom. It was against the statutes of this state to commit murder in 1922 and the law on this subject stands unchanged.

We understand and know that all of the parties imprisoned at that time have been granted releases. We resisted such pardons then and hold the same opinion now. The fact that these felons were released from penalties in no wise justifies Governor Marland and the parole board in releasing this man. Here is a chance for the chief executive to take a stand as between right and wrong. To do otherwise is to flout justice. *Oklahoma City*

Of all the lynch-murder cases in Oklahoma this is the only instance in the history of the state where in a court of law the mob confessed and was sent to the penitentiary with hands dripping with the blood of the victim. We wonder would the pardon and parole board ponder over the question of recommitment had the mob's victim been white?



Killings — 1937

South Carolina.

Greenwood, S. C. Index-Journal  
January 16, 1937

# CASE OF IRWIN BROWN

Irwin Brown is a twenty-five year old Negro of Columbia. He killed a white man recently. Thursday Brown was tried and convicted of murder, the jury taking only fifteen minutes to bring in a verdict of "guilty." Brown will die in the electric chair.

From the evidence it appears to have been that deliberate and pre-meditated murder which the State says must be punished by death.

Brown would have been convicted and properly in any county in the State.

But the question comes to mind: If he had been a white man, would this conviction have been as swift and as certain?

This question is the one that is not pleasant to ask but the record of the past does not assure us that the white people of the State whose hands are all the authority and power and on whose shoulders rests the responsibility for the security of human life in the form of law and order have the solemn recognition of that responsibility that is essential.

Chester, S. C. News  
May 21, 1937

## NEGROES CONFESS SLAYING OF TOM CARTER

One of the most mystifying murder cases officers have had to deal with in Chester county in many years has been solved with the confessions procured by Sheriff Peden from Joe C. Pendergrass, 35, Smith Carter, alias Raleigh Carter, and Raymond Carter, 21, all negroes, implicating themselves and several other negroes in the death of Tom Carter, alias Tom Gregory, also colored, of the Wilksburg community. The others implicated in the confession in the Sheriff's possession are Marshall Peak, Monk Bryant, Tom Archer and Cephas Foote.

Off Peden from Joe C. Pendergrass, 35, Smith Carter, alias Raleigh Carter, and Raymond Carter, 21, with the affair.

All negroes, implicating themselves and several other negroes in the death of Tom Carter, alias Tom Gregory, also colored, of the Wilksburg community. The others implicated in the confession in the Sheriff's possession are Marshall Peak, Monk Bryant, Tom Archer and Cephas Foote.

Carters body was found in the



Killings-1937

Tennessee

# Doomed Negro Slays Guard In Night Club Kill His Death Cell Sends 4 Away

## Slayer Shot To Death; Long Prison Terms For Tennessee Prison Is Charlie Cianciola's Scene Of Dual Killing Murderers

NASHVILLE, TENN., March 12.—(P)—“Death row” at the State penitentiary witnessed two unscheduled killings today when a sullen negro murder, doomed to electrocution next Thursday, fatally stabbed a guard and then was shot dead by another guard.

Nineteen-year-old Frank Haynie, Jr., convicted with a negro companion of a hold-up slaying here last May, leaped upon J. L. Simms, 47, as the latter opened the cell door to put stool inside after the noon meal. He plunged a knife under Simms's right arm, severing an artery. The guarded died within half an hour from loss of blood.

H. B. Harris, who had accompanied Simms to the death house to assist in feeding the condemned men — eight too others are awaiting electrocution within the next few weeks—rushed to his comrade's aid.

Haynie, rushing from his cell, knocked Harris down and then slashed his right arm, inflicting a superficial wound.

“I jumped up and shot twice,” Harris said. “Haynie fell. I hit him in the head with both shots.” The negro died instantly.

Warden A. W. Neely expressed the opinion that Haynie “was going to die himself and just wanted to carry someone else with him. He might have had the idea he could get away, but, of course, that was impossible.”

Haynie's cellmate, James Taylor, negro houseboy under sentence to die Monday for attacking his employer with a handax and then ravishing her, ran out of the cell behind Haynie, but rushed back in again when the shooting started.

The weapon Haynie used was one-blade “store knife,” Neely said. He could not explain how the negro obtained it. “Someone might have slipped it to him while he was going to or from the bath house, or it might have been concealed in a banana or other food someone sent him, though all food is carefully inspected,” the warden said.

Simms, employed at the prison for five years after serving on the Nashville police force for a decade, had just returned to duty this morning after a three-week illness. His wife said she

had urged him to stay at home until he had recovered fully, but he insisted on going back to work.

## For 3 White Men And Negro

COVINGTON, TENN., March 8.—

(P)—Four men went to trial here today for the night club slaying of Charlie Cianciola, 42, with the State demanding death in the electric chair for each of them.

His hands and feet tied behind him, his head battered by two bullets through his brain, the 42-year-old Cianciola was found lying in a small, blood-spattered room to the rear of his Golden Slipper night club on the Jefferson Davis Highway, 15 miles south of here, last Nov. 7.

Police Chief Will D. Lee, of Memphis, said Cianciola formerly operated a policy or “numbers” game at Memphis.

The defendants are Jack Richardson, 30, and his brother, Leonard, 42, Memphis; William (Red) Jennings, formerly bouncer at the night club, and a negro, Augusta Wilkins, of first degree murder.

Punishment for Jennings was fixed at 21 years in the State Penitentiary. Sentences for the others were fixed at 99 years.

“A jury is like a young woman,” commented Jack Richardson, asserting, “trigger man” in the slaying of the 42-year-old Cianciola man at his night club on the Jefferson Davis Highway. “You can't tell what it's going to do. I think we got a little too severe to me,” and Wilkins added, “it wasn't so well.”

Leonard agreed “it seemed a little too severe to me,” and Wilkins added, “it wasn't so well.”

“It don't suit me,” said Jennings, whom Cianciola brought from Paducah, Ky., to work in the night club. “It was unjustified. They've convicted an innocent man.”

Motions for new trials will be heard March 27.

Shot twice, his head battered and his hands tied behind him, Cianciola, described by Police Chief Will D. Lee, of Memphis, as a former policy or “numbers” game operator there, was found in a blood-spattered room to the rear of his night club last Nov. 7.

Jennings maintained innocence from the time of his arrest, but his co-defendants made confessions, which they later repudiated, that Cianciola was killed during a hold-up slaying.

After reading from a Bible, he told police, “I'm ready to go to the electric chair. I expect to go to the chair. But, I've made peace with God.”

Police Capt. Frank Glisson quoted him as admitting, for the second time, the ice pick stabbing of a white woman, Mrs. Clara Sordonilas, and two other slayings—both negroes.

Chattanooga, Tenn. News May 14, 1937

## High Negro Murder Record Cut in Half

Police Commissioner Eugene J. Bryan is doing more pointing with pride and less viewing with alarm these days over the city's murder record.

These are some of the reasons:

Since Jan. 1, 1937, Chattanooga's high Negro murder record has been cut in half.

There have been but ten Negro murders this year, whereas during the first four months of 1936 the figure was practically double.

The first four months of 1937 saw but one white murder in Chattanooga, a reduction over the previous year.

News has spread among members of the colored race that murder isn't looked upon as lightly by the courts as it once was.

Although the commissioner is gratified at this record, he says there will be no let-up.

The police commissioner attributes much of the reduction to preventive measures instituted by the department.

“Uniformed men have been placed on duty twenty-four hours a day in the colored sections where we had the most trouble,” he explained.

## NEGRO KILLED AFTER LOUIS' CELEBRATION

KNOXVILLE, June 23.—A Negro was shot and killed early today as he attempted to celebrate Joe Louis' victory at Chicago.

The Negro, James Johnson, was killed by Policeman Charles Lobetti when the officer answered a call to a disturbance.

Lobetti said he fired when the Negro reached in his hip-pocket as if to draw a gun.

## N.A.A.C.P. AID RECEIVED FOR SHARECROPPER

Association Finances The Murder Conviction To Higher Court

HUNTINGDON, Tenn., Aug. 13.—The appeal of Bill Jack Bledsoe, tenant farmer, from

his conviction on a charge of murder will be aided by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, it was learned here Saturday.

A check to cover part of the expenses of the appeal to the Tennessee supreme court was received from the New York office and another check is being sent by the Memphis branch of the N.A.A.C.P.

Bledsoe, despite evidence showing that he killed a white man in self defense, was charged with first degree murder and was sentenced to 20 years imprisonment on July 26.

The story of the case is that Bledsoe killed George Stanford, white, the riding boss and general agent of the R. C. Denny farm located about six miles from Milan, Tenn.

## Argued Over Seed

The shooting followed an argument over grass seed. Bledsoe, who was born on the Denny farm, had planted the grass seed but had been told subsequently to move off by the riding boss and the latter is said to have promised to pay Bledsoe for the seed, but failed to do so.

After the argument in a bank in Milan, Stanford sent word to Bledsoe to remove his tools from the Denny farm, whereupon Bledsoe and his uncle, Curtis Bledsoe, and two other relatives took two wagons to the Denny farm to remove their tools.

After the two wagons entered on the farm and approached a small stream, Stanford was seen standing on its bank. The first wagon passed Stanford, and as the wagon in which Bill Jack and Curtis Bledsoe were riding approached, Stanford fired two shots without warning. Bill Jack returned the fire, and Stanford fell mortally wounded. Bledsoe fired seven shots and Stanford fired four.

## Has Four Attorneys

Four attorneys are defending Bledsoe whose family is well-known and respected in this area of Tennessee. The lawyers are: P. L. Harden, from Jackson, Tenn.; J. Ross McKinney, chief counsel; Jimmie Lee Taylor and Buck Crider, the latter three white of this city.

Chief Counsel McKinney was so diligent in seeking to protect the rights of his client that the District Attorney, L. L. Harrell, used a Race prejudice argument before the jury stating that if McKinney believed in equal rights for the Negro, “he should black his face and become a Negro.”

P. L. Harden was the first counsel

The white and Race lawyers acting for Bledsoe have stated they will carry on the fight for his freedom to the highest courts, being confident of a reversal.



# Fight Jail Term Of Sharecropper

*Return*  
**Whites Rally to Rescue  
of Farmhand Who  
Got 20 Years**

*\$28.39*  
By Crusader News Service

HUNTINGDON, Tenn. — Bill Jack Bledsoe, a sharecropper, near Huntingdon, figured he had some rights. To move off the land. To protect himself from an overseer's gun. To collect debts due him.

Bill Jack Bledsoe got 20 years for thinking that.

*Washington*  
The story is no new one. But there's something new in the way it's being handled. For southern white men have come to the defense of Bledsoe and the case has become a symbol of the fight against landlord reaction all along the delta.

Bill Jack Bledsoe got 20 years from Judge W. W. Hood in a speedy trial here four weeks ago. His uncle, Curtis Bledsoe, got two years. A motion for a new trial was denied.

## Lynching Threat

Local landlords said Bledsoe was "lucky" not to have been strung up. Lemmie Lee Barrell, one of the prosecuting attorneys, told Attorney J. Ross McKinney, counsel for Bledsoe, to "blacken your face and become a Negro if you believe so much in equal rights and freedom of speech."

As a matter of fact, the defense of Bill Jack Bledsoe has found a wide sympathy among the white people of Tennessee and all the South.

Bill Jack Bledsoe has had trouble with George Stanford, overseer on the Denny plantation for quite a while. Old R. C. Denny, owner of the plantation which is the largest one in Carroll County and the richest in the matter of cotton production, has been infirm and inactive for years.

## Bad Reputation

Stanford had a nasty reputation among colored tenants all over Carroll County. He carried a gun on his hips making the rounds and his manner was always that of the domineering, cruel, riding boss.

Stanford and Bledsoe had been on bad terms for six months before the trouble which ended in the death of Stanford. Stanford was known to have forced his attentions on Negro women about the plantation. Bill Jack Bledsoe, 23, unmarried, and devoted to his family, had a sister. Neighbors of Bledsoe say he wanted to move

away from the Denny plantation in order to protect her from annoyances by such fellows as Stanford.

Stanford objected to Bledsoe's plans to leave the plantation, picked a quarrel with him, and in the fight that ensued Stanford was shot by his own gun which Bledsoe wrested from him after he pulled it and threatened to shoot Bledsoe.

Chattanooga, Tenn., Daily Times  
December 15, 1937

## SAFETY IN CHATTANOOGA.

Commissioner Bryan's statement concerning the homicide and automobile fatality rates in Chattanooga this year as compared with last reveals that in some particulars conditions in this community have improved. Whether the improved conditions reflect a change of trend or result from better enforcement of the laws is, of course, debatable. The fact that one additional policeman has been assigned to homicide work would seem to fall far short of explaining the drop in homicide cases. If, as Mr. Bryan suggests, a more harmonious spirit between the white and Negro races accounts for the fact that no interracial killings have occurred in 1937, perhaps a more harmonious spirit among Negroes accounts for the fact that thirty-one homicides among Negroes this year represents a drop of about 100 per cent. from the previous year.

Not until the year ends will it be possible to have complete figures. To keep the record straight, however, it might be mentioned that Police Department records of fatal automobile accidents vary from the records kept by the Chattanooga Safety Council. The Safety Council, which considers certain factors which are ruled out by the Police Department, lists twenty-six fatal accidents as having occurred in the City through November 29, while Commissioner Bryan places the number at twenty-four. In any event, Chattanooga's highway accident toll is likely to be considerably smaller than that of last year, when thirty-four persons were listed by the Police Department as victims.

If the remaining days in the year do not upset the percentages already figured by Commissioner Bryan, there will be reason to be-

lieve that substantial progress is being made in the effort to promote safety measures generally. Commissioner Bryan's estimate of a 45 per cent. decrease in homicides and automobile fatalities is too large to credit to any single factor.



Killings-1937

# CRUDE DEATH IS ANSWER GIVEN TO FARMER

50-Year - Old Victim  
Shot Through His  
Head By Owner  
Of Plantation

RESENTMENT IS  
CITED AS CAUSE

MEMPHIS, Tenn.—(SNS) — Cold-blooded murder in one of its crudest forms, based on greed and injustice of the Southern plantation-tenant farming system is the conclusion reached by those who have concerned themselves to study the few facts and many opinions connected with the brutal killing, last Saturday, of Dave Sanders, 45-year-old colored tenant farmer, who had lived for more than fourteen years on one place the E. G. Nelson, Jr. plantation, in Shelby County, near Millington, barely 20 miles from Memphis. Sanders was allegedly shot through the head and almost instantly killed by the man for whom he had worked so long, E. G. Nelson, Jr., himself comparatively young, and wealthy, white planter of Memphis and Shelby County, during an altercation over a bale of cotton.

Mrs. Cora Sanders, the dead man's widow, deprived of her only means of support by her husband's death, could tell very little about the facts surrounding the shooting.

She was not present when Sanders was slain. At the home of her son, Mr. Abbie Lee Sanders, an insurance salesman living and working here in Memphis, the bereaved

woman, could merely relate the versions of the affair furnished by a couple of eyewitnesses, and give her opinions as to the motive underlying it.

## Greed Was Motive

When asked if there had been any hard feeling between her husband and Nelson previous to the killing she said "No."

However, she did state that there had been a marked change in the planter's attitude toward his colored tenants during the past three years. He had formerly held the reputation of fair dealings and at least unoppressive treatment of his retainers up until recently.

Then, he seemed to change drastically. One of the largest landowners and planters in West Tennessee, owning more than 3,000 acres of farm-land in this area, principally in Shelby County, Nelson had to deal with a large number of tenants and farm laborers who were connected with his places. Of recent years the tenants and laborers, especially the tenants, have found it increasingly difficult to effect a clear settlement, or even receive a statement from Nelson, in regard to their crops and labor.

This was the case in the instance of Dave Sanders. For the last two years he had found difficulty in being able to see Mr. Nelson for a settlement, or to receive a statement as to his year's work, whether he was clear of debt, had made a profit for himself or owned anything—the same old story.

Mrs. Sanders revealed that her husband was required by Nelson to furnish two six-hundred bales of cotton a year for his rental as a tenant on the plantation. Last year he was unable to obtain any statement from Nelson as to how he stood. In previous years, for the most part, he had been able to find out about his status.

It was this hold-over situation from last year that led the tenant farmer, Sanders, to go to Nelson last Saturday with the idea of getting a statement and settlement for last year and a portion of this year from him.

Already this year he had turned one over 615 pound bale of cotton and a 590 pound bale. He was carrying Nelson, when he asked for a statement, and was shot.

It appeared that Nelson resented Sanders' asking for a statement at all. Evidently, to have given Sanders a statement and settlement would have necessitated doing the same for the other tenants. Accord-

ing to reports, Nelson had consistently failed to do this over recent years.

In fact, he had been known to request a share of the federal government parity payments for crop curtailment, according to Mrs. Sanders. Government agricultural officials have followed a policy of paying the money directly to the tenants instead of to the planters, as formerly.

It was with the idea of getting a statement and settlement that Sanders drove to the Nelson home in Kerrville last Saturday. He and Will Malone had decided to take their cotton to the planter together.

According to what Mrs. Sanders could learn, the two men were together when the shooting occurred. From the testimony of eyewitnesses who related the details of the tragedy to her, it seems that after having the cotton ginned and baled they drove to the Nelson home and asked to see the planter. He is said to have told the men to unload the cotton. Malone unloaded his bale immediately. Sanders is said to have told Nelson that he would like to get a statement about his cotton and work before he unloaded his third bale, as he had already turned over two bales.

Nelson then demanded that he unload the cotton, making no effort nor giving any indication of complying with the request for a statement.

When Sanders insisted on receiving a statement again, Nelson is reported to have struck at the tenant two times with his revolver. Sanders dodged the blows each time. Then Nelson pulled the trigger shooting Sanders through the head and leaving him lying in the wagon. It is reported that Nelson said the shooting was accidental—that he didn't intend to kill Sanders. But further reports have it that the shooting might have been Nelson's way of stopping further demands for statements from his other tenants.

Little information regarding what, if anything, would be done to Nelson could be gained during the middle of the week. The planter was released on his own bond by Shelby County law officials according to what could be learned, as late as Tuesday afternoon.

It was stated that Sanders made no attempt to attack Nelson, or even to defend himself against the assault. He had never been known to carry a weapon of any sort, not even a knife. He was a church member and a respected individual in his community. He was one of

ten living brothers, none of whom has even been involved in any kind of trouble before. All of them reside with their families in this territory.



Killings-1937

Tennessee

# MYSTERY SURROUNDS COTTON PICKER'S DEATH

*11-13-37*  
*from...*  
HUMBOLDT, Tenn. (ANP)—  
Travis Davis, a cotton picker,  
of Humboldt, was found dead  
early Monday morning one mile  
north of Tiptonville, Tenn., on  
U.S. Highway 51 near the terri-  
tory in which cotton planters  
started a peonage campaign to  
"get out" their cotton.

The body was discovered by  
his former sweetheart, Miss Lucy  
Givens, who immediately notified  
Tiptonville police. When police  
arrived they found Davis, with  
shoes off and partly undressed,  
lying face-downward in a ditch.  
After a bit of whispering, the  
investigation seemed to have  
ended with another "natural  
cause" verdict.



Killings-1937  
(See Killings-1932)

## STATE BEGINS DRIVE TO CONVICT PURYEAR FOR MURDER OF WIFE

*Commercial Appeal*  
Policemen, Neighbors Take  
Stand In First Day of Trial  
Over Ax Slaying

### DUMMY IS PRODUCED

*6-19-37*  
Bullet-Riddled Coat of Negro  
Produced As Evidence  
*Neighbors*  
OFFICER'S STORY RAPPED

Defense Attorney Punctures  
Testimony of Patrolman—  
Nearby Residents Declare  
They Heard No Screams

A dummy with a bullet riddled coat, neighbors, policemen, two ambulance drivers and a doctor were paraded in first criminal court yesterday as the state began its fourth attempt to convict Stanley A. Puryear, fat garageman, for the alleged ax murder of his wife, Aurelia, on the morning of May 2, 1932.

The dummy wore the coat and vest that Will Jamison, negro, had worn on the night the state claims he was lured to the Puryear home at 1300 Ridgeway, told to wait in the back yard and then fired upon by Puryear to make it appear that the ax atrocity was the work of a burglar whom he had surprised in his home.

#### Neighbors Testify

Neighbors were Mrs. J. M. Strader, 909 East Trigg, whose home was just behind the Puryear house, and Mrs. H. L. Guy, who lived then at 107 Ridgeway, across the street.

Each denied they had heard any screams prior to hearing two shots at quick intervals. Each testified that Puryear never went near his wife to comfort her as she lay dying on her bed. Each testified that his white nightgown seemed

freshly laundered, was not blood-stained and seemed never to have been slept in at all.

Police officers were Doc Davis neighbor of Puryear six doors down on Ridgeway, who said he heard a car moving up the alley in the direction of the Puryear home about half an hour before he heard the shots, and F. L. Gustavas, who found the negro dying in a grass plot on Gaither and Parkway.

#### Defense Questions Patrolman

The other witnesses were Dr. Battle Malone, who told of Mrs. Puryear's subsequent death without regaining consciousness at St. Joseph's Hospital, and A. B. Gathings, Thompson ambulance driver, and W. F. Seavers, Jr., formerly of J. T. Hinton & Son.

A. B. Galloway, defense attorney, succeeded in shooting some sizeable holes in parts of the testimony of Patrolman Gustavas, to whom the negro Jamison was first supposed to have told that Puryear picked him up on Beale Avenue about 4 o'clock in the morning, left him in his back yard and then called him to the rear porch and shot at him after being in the house some 15 minutes.

This part of the testimony, however, will not be presented to the current jury under governing rules of legal procedure as Puryear has been acquitted of the slaying of the negro, but Gustavas nonetheless bore the brunt of defense cross-examination relative to finding of the ax, statements Puryear allegedly made to him relative to where the negro was standing when the first shot was fired and as to the construction of a cellar window through which the negro was supposed to have gained entrance to the house.

#### *6-19-37* Saw Man Running

Most graphic story was told by Mrs. Strader, wife of a Frisco engineer. She had awakened about 4:30 o'clock, she said, to let her two police dogs out in her yard and was just getting back into bed when she heard a shot.

"Then I heard a second shot," she told the jury, "and I saw a man in white (Puryear) running down the alley. I saw him coming back, mumbling. Then I heard some one telling little Porter (Puryear's son) to call the police. After a little while, Mr. Stanley Puryear came out on the porch and starting yelling: 'Help, murder, police.'"

Mrs. Strader said she rushed over and saw Puryear standing in the living room of the home. He let her in and said: "My wife's been murdered. For God's sake, do something."

#### Stayed Out of Room

Mrs. Strader added that while

she was there—and before she went the grass plot a few minutes later, home for a wrap—he never went near the room where his wife and child, Aurelia, eight, were dying.

"There was no blood on his nightgown," she said. "It seemed fresh. He told me that little Porter had to drag him out of bed to get him up. He said that the negro had said he would kill her (Mrs. Puryear) if she made a sound."

To this she also added that Puryear then showed her an ax and said:

"This is what he killed them with."

#### With Mrs. Puryear

Except that she did not see any one running down the alley, testimony of Mrs. Guy substantiated this in the main. The night before the tragedy, she told the court, she had gone with Mrs. Puryear to a church festival and Mr. Puryear was at home at that time reading the Sunday papers.

Asked on cross-examination if the Puryears didn't seem a loving couple, Mrs. Guy snapped:

"Mrs. Puryear was a very affectionate woman." She, however, could tell of no ill treatment she had known of by Mrs. Puryear at her husband's hands.

#### Patrolman Awakened

Patrolman Davis told of being awakened by the sound of an auto passing through the alley in second gear, and thinking, at first, that it was the milkman. However, he concluded it was not the milkman, as it was too early for him.

Sitting up playing solitaire (he was to go on duty at 6 o'clock) he heard the first shot, and then, after a brief interval, the second, he testified.

"When I got up to the (Puryear) porch, Mr. Puryear said: 'Mr. Davis, somebody has murdered my wife and baby.'"

#### Ax Introduced

The ax was introduced through Mr. Davis. Puryear, he said, showed it to him and said that it was what the negro had killed them with.

"There was blood on the blade, but none on the handle."

Patrolman Gustavas, who followed, told of answering the call in his squad car, of being met at the walk by Patrolman Davis and informed of what had happened.

"Davis told us (Gustavas and Patrolman Charlie Peet, his partner) that the negro had run down the alley and we might circle and head him off. Mr. Puryear kept telling me to come in the house."

The officers found the negro in

lance had been sent for him.

"Mr. Puryear kept saying: 'Where's that negro. I want to finish him.'"

"I said, 'Calm yourself. You've killed him.' And he said: 'Thank God.'"

The bullet riddled coat and vest that Jamison wore, showing a hole between the left chest and the left arm, made from the front, and another hole in the back, were identified by both officers. The state contends that Puryear called the negro from the back yard and fired. The first shot struck him from the front. Then the negro ran and the second and fatal shot struck him in the back.

#### Shot From Doorway

It has been Puryear's contention, however, that the negro was coming on him with an ax after he had about trapped him on the back porch and that that accounted for the frontal wound.

"Puryear told me," Gustavas said, "that the first thing he knew when when he heard his little girl say: 'Oh, daddy.'"

"I ran to my wife's room," he said, "and saw a negro at the bed with an ax upraised. He turned and wheeled at me. I ran back to my room and got my shotgun. He ran through the other side of the house to the back porch and turned again. I shot him. I was in the door when I shot him a second time."

#### No Stains in Grass

Puryear, according to Gustavas, found the ax in the back yard.

"But the yard had been freshly mowed and there was a heavy dew and I couldn't find any blood stains on the grass or moisture on the ax handle."

On cross-examination, Mr. Galloway involved Gustavas on his former testimony. The officer at first said he had testified so frequently he knew it all by heart. Confronted with previous evidence in transcript, he would say he didn't remember.

The trial resumes at 9:30 o'clock this morning with prospects of completion some time Thursday.



# PURYEAR FREED ON 'NEGRO ALIBI,' LATER CONFESSES

MEMPHIS, July 8—(ANP)—Although he was freed after slaying a colored man in what he claimed was a "Negro-did-it" crime, justice caught up with Stanley Puryear, white, Wednesday, when he was convicted in his fourth trial of murdering his wife and daughter. The jury found the punishment on the 37-year-old used car dealer at 20 years in prison. The state charged Puryear hacked his wife and daughter, Aupelia, 3, to death with an axe at their home May 2, 1932, and he fatally shot Will Jameson whom he found on the street and lured to his home to detect suspicion from himself. Puryear claimed Johnson slew his wife and child and he shot Johnson after surprising him in the act, but investigations by detectives and deathbed statement by the victim showed the car dealer as the culprit.

Puryear was acquitted when tried for Jamerson's murder and two previous trials for the killing of his wife and daughter resulted in mistrials.

## FARMER EXONERATED IN SLAYING OF NEGRO

### Grand Jury Holds Shooting Was Accidental

E. H. Nelson, Millington farmer yesterday was cleared of the slaying of his negro sharecropper, Dave Sanders, when the Shelby County Grand Jury concluded that the fatal shooting on Oct. 30 was accidental rather than intentional.

The Nelson case was one of the 16 considered, 13 resulting in indictments. In addition to being cleared of the murder charge, Mr. Nelson was exonerated on a charge of carrying a pistol. He claimed that the negro started an argument over his account and that he drew a pistol to frighten him.

Also cleared by the investigators was Mr. D. McClung, 40, of 2301 Madison, president of the Memphis

## SHARECROPPER WINS NEW TRIAL IN MURDER

Press Service of the N. A. A. C. P.  
Huntingdon, Tenn., Sept. 3 -- A new trial has been granted Curtis Bledsoe, sharecropper, convicted recently in the killing of George Stanford, a white riding boss on the R. C. Denny plantation, near Milan, Tenn. Curtis Bledsoe was shown to have had no part in the killing of Stanford, but because his nephew, Bill Jack Bledsoe, fired at Stanford in self-defense while Curtis was present, Curtis was convicted of voluntary manslaughter and sentenced to two years in the penitentiary.

9-3-37  
Bill Jack Bledsoe, who shot the riding boss in self-defense only after he had been shot at four times, was sentenced to 20 years. His case is being appealed to the Tennessee supreme court. Both cases are being handled by white and colored lawyers employed by the N. A. A. C. P. and the family.

The original argument occurred when the riding boss ordered the Bledsoes to remove their tools from their cabin on the Denny farm and get off the plantation because Bledsoe had raised the question of pay for some grass seed.

Other indictments were:  
Using car without owner's consent—M. R. Barker.  
Larceny—Lynwood Smith, Eddie Cotton and Sam Levitch; Madison Dobbins, S. B. Taylor (two cases) and Robert Williams.

Violation of the liquor law—Irwin Reason.

Carrying a pistol—Ted Serafin.

### NEGRO TENANT KILLED

#### Cotton Bale Argument Results In Shooting

Shot in the head during an argument over ownership of a bale of cotton, Dave Sanders, negro, Millington, died at John Gaston Hospital at 8:35 o'clock Saturday night. He was shot a few hours earlier by E. H. Nelson, Knoxville planter, deputies said.

Deputy Blankenship said Sanders was a tenant on Nelson's farm. Nelson was released on his own recognizance to report to the sheriff's office at 9 o'clock this morning.



Killings-1937

Texas.

# NEGRO HOMICIDES IN TEXAS CITIES

By DR. R. T. HAMILTON, Guest Editor

Quite rightfully Negro leaders everywhere deplore lynchings in this country, and are making strenuous efforts and leaving no stones unturned to stamp it out. It is indeed a monster evil and God hasten the day when the remedy is found and is effectively applied.

But there is another ever growing evil which abounds in every city of the country in which there is a large Negro population. It is astounding how merrily it goes along unabated, and it is appalling that little or nothing is being done about it. It is the ever increasing number of murders of Negroes by Negroes in the big cities. A ten cent dispute over a dice game can only be settled by bloodshed and death—a jealous heart can only be appeased by bloodshed and pitiless murder.

Up to December 15, 1936, according to Dallas statistics there were 105 murders in Dallas—more than one for each week of the year. This is an increase of 22 over 1935. The rests are made but within a few days the murderer is on the streets again going about his business, and ready for his next victim. His white boss has gotten him out on a small bond or on his own recognizance. If the case ever comes to trial his white boss swears that he is a "good nigger", and most often a suspended sentence is given. A few weeks ago a Negro committed a double murder in Dallas on a very small provocation, making a total of four Negro victims he has notched on the handle of his gun during the past few years. He is still behind the bars but if the usual course is followed, ere long he will be out again enjoying the freedom of the streets and of the air.

Last year the Dallas Negro Chamber of Commerce held a conference with law enforcing officers of the City and County to find out what could be done about this sort of thing. The sheriff, who gave the impression of being a fine fellow with an open mind, and a representative of the District Attorney's office, finally stated that nothing could be done about it until white jurors are convinced that a Negro life is just as sacred in the sight of the law as a white life. "The general feeling around the court house," they said, "when a Negro commits a murder on a member of his race is, 'O well, he only killed a nigger! just as well let him out to get another one.'" And so the murderer is out in a few days on a small bond, and his trial is put off from time to time, and most often the charges are finally dismissed, or a short, or a suspended sentence is given.

The story is about the same in all of the big cities of the State and of the South. Who has not heard in this respect of "Bloody Memphis" and "Murderous Birmingham?" These two cities have vied for the record in former years. If newspaper reports are to be credited, Dallas or Houston has forged ahead during 1936. A few days ago G-Men rated Dallas as the third most murderous city in the Nation.

If these conditions are to be changed in Texas, Negroes must continue to contend with increased effort to obtain service on grand juries, as well as on juries in the courts where these murderers are tried. They must continue their efforts by every legitimate means to obtain the vote in Democratic Primaries, where they can have a say as to the election of law enforcing officers. They must pay their Poll Taxes in large numbers so as to be, if not a determining force, a powerful factor in these primaries and in general election. They must try harder to awaken an enlightened white public sentiment to the gravity of the problem herein involved. These large numbers of murders committed by Negroes mar the good name of our big cities and of our great State in which all law-abiding citizens are concerned—white and black alike.

And here is an outstanding challenge to Negro church and youth, self-control, tolerance, decent regard for life and limb, and the property right of others. Moreover, it is a challenge to the good white people of the State, and to law enforcing officers, since Negroes are denied the privilege of voting in Democratic primaries, to see to it that Negro life be sacred in the courts, and that justice be done him in this matter.

## Five Negroes, Two Whites Slain In Month In Houston

HOUSTON.—Five Negro and two white murders were reported by the police homicide office of Houston for the month of January. There were nine cases of assault to murder among Negroes and eight among whites. Negroes convicted of major crimes during the month were Homer Phillips, juvenile, sentenced to reform school until 21 for the murder of Mack Phillips; Anna Harrell, given five years, suspended, for the murder of Lacy Crumley, and Samuel McKenzie, 140 years for assault to murder and 5 robberies.

### PUNISHING MURDERERS

This week Fritz Cansler, executive secretary of the Colored Branch of the Dallas YMCA, spoke over station KRLD on the great number of murders occurring in Dallas and the lax treatment of Negro murderers of Negroes. It was a masterful address and put emphasis where it is most needed. Preceding the address Dr. R. T. Hamilton had made a study of the punishment of murderers in Dallas. It was the basis of Mr. Cansler's address and editorial comment in the three Dallas dailies and The INFORMER by Dr. Hamilton, as guest editor.

Negro leaders should note that the broadcast and the newspaper comment have built a tremendous public sentiment in favor of a more intelligent approach to the problem of meting out justice to Negroes brought before the bar. Attention once focused on the question of murder and effective enforcement of the law, will necessarily carry over into ordinary crimes. For instance, once a judge gets to thinking about applying even handed justice to all murderers regard- less of who is the murderer, it will be an easy step to note that he has also been giving a peculiar enforcement of the law to thieves. He can't help wondering why he ought give a Negro five years for stealing three chickens and a white thief six months for the same offense. Police officers, who start re- lentlessly building cases against Negroes who murder Negroes, will come more slowly to the realization that by the same token by which they treat murderers the same, they ought treat Negro citizens the same when they speak to them about crossing red lights, instead of cursing and abusing them, but they will come to it at last.

We would like to digress in order to suggest that behind all of this great wave of public interest is a mass of accumulated facts gathered and analyzed before any move was made

## SLAYER IS KILLED Posse Shoots Murderer of Cafe Operator

HOUSTON, Texas, July 30.—(UP)—Possemen killed an ex-convict today a few hours after he and a companion shot to death J. C. Stiff, 57, a cafe operator. Early tonight the searchers believed they would drive the second gunman from a thicket east of the city in which he hid when his companion, flushed by bloodhounds, stepped into the open and was shot down. The slain man was identified as Fred Williams, 34, of Little Rock, Ark. Williams had served a five-year sentence for robbery in Louisiana state prison at Angola.

Too many of our efforts are abortive because we don't start armed with facts. How many weak organizations there are fumbling in the dark, because they don't bring the light of facts to guide their efforts, is hard to say, but there are too many.

To Dr. R. T. Hamilton and the Dallas Chamber of Commerce we give the palm. To leaders elsewhere we say you can do as well, stop orating and go to work. Every city in Texas could profit by improvement in the way Negroes are punished for murdering members of their own race.

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# FISHING MURDERERS

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# WHITE SLAYER OF PORTER GETS 5-YEAR TERM

*Infamous*  
**Murdered Rolland In  
White Beauty  
Parlor**

**4-17-37**  
HOUSTON.—Herbert Couch, 17-year-old white youth, was found guilty of the murder of Joe Rolland, 27, beauty shop porter, and sentenced to five years in prison by a jury in criminal district court here Tuesday night.

*Defendant*  
The defendant appeared in court Wednesday morning and accepted the sentence from Judge Max Rogers of Centerville, who was substituting for Judge Whit Boyd.

Couch admitted slugging Rolland with a hammer and stabbing him to death with a butcher knife on March 16 in a white beauty shop in the 1500 block of Alameda Road, but declared he acted in self-defense after the colored man attacked him.

Rolland had been stabbed in the heart and six times in the back and his skull was fractured when the body was found.

## Confession Is Read

A confession, made to Captain George Peyton of the police homicide squad by Couch after his arrest, was read to the jury. In it Couch stated he went to the beauty shop with Joe Rolland in his car after midnight on the morning of March 16.

"We were in the shop about 30 minutes, and we started arguing," Couch's statement read, "and I hit Joe Rolland in the head with a hammer and stabbed him several times with a butcher knife which was in the place."

"Joe Rolland and I were in the back of the beauty shop and Joe started an argument and I hit him, and after I hit him we tussled up to the front of the building, and I got the butcher knife and stabbed him, Joe Rolland."

## Got Into Argument

"We were arguing about who I was to go out with. I had said I was going to call Pete, and Joe Rolland said 'no, you are not going to call him.'"

"And then we started fighting, so I hit him with the hammer, and

after I seen what I had done I started to take him out, but could not carry him without being seen, so I straightened up everything in the beauty shop that we had turned over, and took a curtain down and wrapped most of the bloody clothes up with the knife. I left the hammer in the shop. I cut the light cord with the knife to tie around the bloody clothes, the knife and the curtain. I then went out and got in Joe Rolland's car, a Ford V18 sedan, and drove to White Oak bayou and stopped on the bridge and put a tire tool on them which I tied and threw them off the bridge into the bayou.

"I then drove back to my house and left the car standing on the corner by my house until about 8 o'clock next morning."

## Went to Movie

According to the confession, Couch got into the car and went to a movie the day following the killing. He then picked up another white boy, Louis Van Antwerp, and they drove around in the car for the rest of the day. That night Couch left the car in the rear of Antwerp's home at 903 Chenevert and walked home. He had taken the license plates off Rolland's car and put the plates from his own car on the dead man's machine. But his mother found his plates gone and made him get them back, he said.

Couch later took the plates from Rolland's car again and put them under the back steps of the house, he said. He put the car key underneath the car at the front wheel. When he was arrested at his home later by Detectives Seber and Graham, he told the officers where to find the car and license plates.

## Claims Life Threatened

The defendant, a tall, lanky red-headed youth who appeared to be older than the age given, mounted the witness stand and testified he had been associating with Rolland about two years. He had been using Rolland's automobile, he said. Couch claimed that Rolland was homosexual. He said Rolland became jealous and threatened his life when he told Rolland at the beauty shop that he was going out with "Pete", another man whom Couch said was sexually perverted.

The white boy said that Rolland reached for a hammer, but that he grabbed the hammer first and struck Rolland. Couch said the porter then walked to the front of the beauty parlor, while Couch followed. Rolland then attempted to pick up a butcher knife, but Couch grabbed the knife and stabbed him, Couch said.

"I was so mad, I don't know how many times I stabbed him," Couch said.

## Took Overcoat, Watch

Rolland's overcoat, wrist watch and shoes and a key to the shop which he carried were missing

when the body was discovered at the time the beauty shop was opened at 8 a.m. Couch said he threw the beauty shop key into the bayou. Couch was under indictment for safe-cracking at the time of the murder.

Miss Mary Sambay, with whom Rolland roomed at 2502 Calumet drive, near where he was employed in the home of Thomas Kehoe, white, stated she had seen Couch driving Rolland's car. She knew him as "Red," she said, and stated the boy telephoned the house for Rolland nearly every day. The day after the killing, she said, Couch telephoned and asked her if any clues had been found as to who committed the crime.

Thomas Kehoe, cotton man, 2425 Calumet, testified Rolland had been employed in his home for five years. He said Rolland left his house to go to the beauty shop to serve at an open house on the night of the killing.

It was revealed that Rolland served guests at an open house at the beauty shop while Couch used his car, returning for him after the affair was over. They left the shop, but returned together later that night.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Earle Adams, Jr., and Allie Peyton. They did not ask for a death penalty.

# REMOVE DEPUTIES OF WALLER COUNTY IN NEGRO SLAYING

*News Labor*  
**Former Houston Police Officer  
Held Responsible For Killing  
and Terroristic Reign At  
Hempstead; Texas Rangers  
Restore Order**

**6-26-37**  
HEMPSTEAD, Texas.—(DPS)—As a sequel to the wanton murder of Earnest McGowan, prosperous and law-abiding colored resident of Lone View community in this county, a few nights ago by a special deputy sheriff imported from Houston and the beating of other Negroes supposedly by officers and a mob, Texas Rangers have been dispatched to this town and order has been restored—at least temporarily.

One quick-trigger, Negro-hating deputy sheriff has been charged with the slaying of McGowan and the others removed from office pending an investigation into the recent reign of terror instituted here allegedly by the deputies and their mobocratic allies.

McGowan and William Tompkins

were arrested and charged with stealing cattle from a white man, beaten and thrown in jail. After a Brenham lawyer effected their release on bond and they had been given emergency treatment at Prairie View State College hospital for their injuries sustained at the hands of the officers and mob, the imported deputy from Houston mortally wounded McGowan after having threatened the Negro's life if he told any of the facts about the beating and arrest.

*Houston*  
John M. Mathis, well-known Houston and Brenham lawyer, is legal counsel for the outraged Negroes and it is thought that he played an important part in having Rangers sent here and the entire terroristic situation bared.



Killings-1937  
6

Virginia.  
6

# NEGRO SUSPECT SLAIN IN FIGHT WITH POLICE

RICHMOND, Va., July 4.—(P)  
Captain E. W. Savory, head of  
Henrico county police, said today  
Joe Deas, negro chauffeur, caught  
in connection with the killing of  
E. M. Crutchfield, prominent in-  
surance man, was killed this  
morning in an exchange of shots  
with Richmond city police.

Crutchfield was killed yester-  
day on the back porch of "Reveil-  
le," one of the city's showplaces.  
Savory said no witnesses to the  
shooting had been found.

## Insurance Agent Shot;

### Police Hunting Negro

RICHMOND, VA., July 3.—(P)—E.  
M. Crutchfield, 67, general agent of  
the Equitable Life Assurance Society,  
here, was shot and killed at his home,  
"Reveille," one of Richmond's show  
places, today. 7-4-37

J. E. Payne, Jr., police sergeant,  
said authorities were looking for Joe  
Deas, a negro chauffeur, in  
connection with the shooting.

Payne said two domestic employes  
at the Crutchfield home reported see-  
ing Deas a few moments after hear-  
ing the shots. A moment later, Payne  
said, they saw an automobile, owned  
by Crutchfield, move out the drive-  
way.